BCPROGRESSBOARD

BUILDING ON OUR PROGRESS — STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

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Executive Summary

The BC Progress Board has two mandates:

- Benchmarking BC's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- Providing strategic advice to the Premier and government on measures to improve BC's economic performance and its social policy supports.

This document is Volume II of the BC Progress Board's sixth annual benchmarking report, *Building On Our Progress: Striving for Excellence.*

Special Topic: Update on Demographics and Population Patterns in BC

Over the next four decades, many developed countries will likely experience a significant ageing of their populations. This is driven by the combination of declining fertility rates since the late 1960s and increasing life expectancy in recent years, and is most commonly discussed in relation to the ageing of those born between 1944 and 1964, the baby boom generation. An ageing population is a concern for a number of reasons, but the main one is pressure on public finances in general and health care spending in particular as most health spending occurs late in life.

British Columbia is going through a transition period, with growth in larger urban centers and population ageing expected to continue to impact BC's economic evolution. There is considerable variation among BC's Development Regions in expected population growth and dependency ratios. A general pattern of increased dependency ratios at or around 2011 is seen in all Development Regions.

Benchmarking Regional and Urban Performance

The Progress Board broadly benchmarks Regional and Urban Performance on 18 indicators of economy, innovation, education, environment, health and society.

On indicators of ***economy, innovation and education***, urban British Columbia (defined as the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area - CMA) outperforms regional BC (outside the Lower Mainland) on eight out of ten performance indicators: employment rate, taxfilers' employment income, housing starts, non-residential building permits, secondary school graduates, university completion, employment in natural sciences and related occupations, and net new business formation. Regional BC continues to perform better than urban BC on retail sales and manufacturing shipments. Some key findings include:

- Half of all manufacturing shipments originate outside of Vancouver and Victoria. The proportion of shipments from these two cities fell between 1990 and 1999 but rebounded since 1999. In 2003, Vancouver was responsible for 47.8% of all shipments, Victoria for only 2.2%, Abbotsford for 3.7% and Regional BC for the remaining 50.0%.
- Real per capita retail sales were $8,379 in the Vancouver CMA and $10,373 in the Victoria CMA, Abbotsford CMA and Regional BC combined in 2005. The Vancouver CMA witnessed decreases in real per capita retail sales in every year between 1996 and 1999 and again between 2003 and 2005; areas outside of the Vancouver CMA had decreases in 1998 and 2003.
- Housing starts per 1,000 population in 2005 were up 118% in the Vancouver CMA, 127% in the Victoria CMA, 131% in the Abbotsford CMA and 145% in Regional BC over their levels in 2000. Unfortunately, 2000 was a trough year for the CMAs while 2001 was a trough for Regional BC.

- The value of real per capita non-residential building permits had been steady or falling for much of the 1993 through 2002 period, the average annual growth was negative 4.5%. BC experienced growth of 3.0% between 2002 and 2003, 6.7% between 2003 and 2004 and 50.2% between 2004 and 2005. All regions in BC shared in the recent growth.
- The percentage of BC's population with a university education grew by 28.5% between 1996 and 2005. Over the same period, the Victoria CMA had growth of 30.4%, the Vancouver CMA had growth of 27.6%, Regional BC had growth of 17.9% and the Abbotsford CMA's proportion of the population (aged 25-64) with a university education grew by 15.5%.

Supplemental indicators benchmarking inter-regional performance outcomes on: Jobs (employment rate), Employment Income, and Manufacturing Shipments by Development Region are included. High school completion by school district and benchmarking of Aboriginal employment, income and education against the general population are retained and updated where possible. While there is little in the way of data updates for the Aboriginal population, the importance of the topic merits its continued inclusion. Some key findings include:

- The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2005 and for the 1996 through 2005 average. Over the period of analysis, the lowest employment rate among the development regions was 53.7% – in the Vancouver Island and Coast Development Region in 2001. Over the same period, the highest rate observed was the Northeast's 2003 value of 72.6%.
- Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1995 and 2004. The exception was the North Coast which had a decrease of 8.9%. The increases range from 2.4% in the Nechako Development Region to 16.2% in the Thompson-Okanagan.
- The Cariboo and Nechako Development Regions had the highest real per capita manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $19,718 and $18,557, respectively, and, in reverse order, the highest 1999-2003 average values as well. The Vancouver Island & Coast Development Region had the lowest level of manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $4,540 and for 1999-2003 at $5,090.
- In 2004/05, BC had a completion rate of 79% for all students and 48% for Aboriginal students. British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 93% in Richmond to 59% in Vancouver Island West.
- BC's Aboriginal population (ages 15 and older) reported a 62.9% labour force participation rate in 2001, with a 48.7% employment rate and a 22.5% unemployment rate. In contrast, BC residents in total (ages 15 and older) reported a slightly higher participation rate (65.3%), a significantly higher employment rate (59.6%) and a significantly lower unemployment rate (8.5%). The median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over was $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population was $13,242.

Of eight indicators of urban versus regional performance related to ***environment, health and society***, Regional BC outperforms the Vancouver CMA on two: low birth weight infants and social condition (low income incidence) and is essentially tied for the personal and property crime rate. British Columbia's largest urban region – the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area – performs better than

Regional BC on local air quality, cancer mortality rates, life expectancy at birth, employment insurance and income assistance. Among the findings:

- On average, life expectancy at birth increased by 3½ months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1996 and 2005. Similarly, it increased on average, by 2 months per year in the Victoria CMA and in Regional BC, by 1½ months per year in the Abbotsford CMA and by 2½ months a year in BC as a whole.
- Powell River had the lowest annual average concentration of particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) over the 2001 through 2005 period at 3.4 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu g/m^3$). Nanaimo was the next lowest at 4.5 $\mu g/m^3$, followed by Chilliwack at 4.8 $\mu g/m^3$ and Abbotsford at 5.2 $\mu g/m^3$. Vancouver and Victoria came in at 5.7 $\mu g/m^3$ and 6.0 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively and Prince George had the highest annual average concentration of particulate matter at 9.6 $\mu g/m^3$.
- The proportion of the population collecting income assistance has consistently been higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver, Victoria or Abbotsford CMAs although the differences are not large.

Supplemental benchmarking using data from the five regional health authorities is included, featuring: cancer mortality, cardiovascular disease mortality, and low birth weight infants. The report also compares crime rates by Municipality and includes a special topic box benchmarking Aboriginal population and health versus the general population. Some key findings include:

- Over the period 1996 to 2005, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest cancer mortality rate of 14.7 deaths per 10,000 population. The cancer mortality rate in 2005 was lower than in 1996 throughout the province. Overall, British Columbia's cancer mortality rate was 11.2% lower in 2005 than in 1996.
- The lowest 2005 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (13.6 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2005 than in 1996 all across BC.
- The Fraser Health Authority had the highest 2005 rate of low weight births (6.0%) and the highest rate, on average between 1996 and 2005, at 5.4%. The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2005 (4.8%) and the lowest 1996 through 2005 average rate (4.6%). No strong trend in the incidence of low weight births is evident over the period 1996 through 2005.
- British Columbia's Status Indian population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. As with employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Status Indian population is generally showing improvement relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite improvements, a gap between BC's Status Indians and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy and low birth weight infants. For example, life expectancy among the Status Indian population in BC in 2002 was 77.2 years – three and a half years shorter than BC's overall life expectancy of 80.8 years.

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I. Benchmarking British Columbia's Regions

Introduction

This is the sixth annual benchmarking report of the BC Progress Board. Established in July 2001 and comprised of 18 British Columbians with a wide range of experience, the Progress Board has two broad mandates:

- To provide advice on whether and to what extent the province is improving its competitive position and quality of life by establishing an ongoing means to measure and benchmark British Columbia's performance over time and relative to other jurisdictions; and,
- To identify issues of importance to the province's future economic prosperity and advise the Premier on strategies, policies and actions necessary to increase the economic and social well-being of British Columbians.

The 2006 Reporting Framework

The BC Progress Board's Benchmarking Report for 2006 is split into two volumes to highlight BC's internal and external performance.

The first volume – External Performance Review – focusses on comparisons of BC's performance against other provinces, US States and OECD member nations.

The second volume looks at performance within British Columbia and is entitled the "Internal Performance Review". Readers familiar with the Progress Board's first five annual reports will recognize the comparisons among the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the Victoria CMA, the Abbotsford CMA and Regional British Columbia.

Supplemental comparisons based on BC's eight Development Regions and five Health Authorities are included. For reference, Appendix B includes maps depicting the Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs as well as BC's Development Region and Health Authority boundaries.

Current Results – Internal Performance Review

Economy, Innovation and Education – Summary Findings

The Vancouver CMA outperforms Regional BC on most of the Economy, Innovation and Education indicators. The exceptions include retail sales (which is split fairly evenly based on population) and manufacturing shipments. The following table provides a basic overview of these indicators.

- British Columbia's employment rate increased by 1.5% (1.0 percentage points) between 2004 and 2005. Regional BC and most of the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) saw improvement although the Abbotsford CMA's employment rate fell. All regions in BC saw improvement in their employment rates between 1996 and 2005, led by a 6.2 percentage point increase in the Abbotsford CMA.
- Real per capita employment income grew by 11.1% between 1995 and 2004 in Re-

gional BC. The Vancouver CMA saw growth of 15.5% while the Victoria CMA's growth was 18.4%. In 2004, real per capita employment income was $13,821 in Regional BC (including Abbotsford), $14,721 in the Victoria CMA and $15,860 in the Vancouver CMA.

- Half of all manufacturing shipments originate outside of Vancouver and Victoria. The proportion of shipments from these two cities fell between 1990 and 1999 but rebounded since 1999. In 2003, Vancouver was responsible for 47.8% of all shipments, Victoria for only 2.2%, Abbotsford for 3.7% and Regional BC for the remaining 50.0%.
- Real per capita retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA grew by 33.9% ($2,625) between 1996 and 2005. The Vancouver CMA witnessed decreases in real per capita retail sales in every year from 1996 through 1999 and again between 2003 and 2005; the areas outside of the Vancouver CMA had decreases in 1998 and 2003.

Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

Economy, Innovation and Education

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
1. Jobs: Employment Rate	2005	% Pop. (15-64)	71.9	75.0	73.4	71.3	-
2. Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita	2004	$1992 per capita	15,860	14,721	n/a	13,821	-
3. Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	2003	$1992 per capita	7,104	2,066	n/a	10,125	+
4. Retail Sales Per Capita	2005	$1992 per capita	8,379	n/a	n/a	10,373	+
5. Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population	2005	Starts/1,000 Pop.	8.8	6.1	6.0	7.9	-
6. Non-Res. Building Permits Per Capita	2005	$1992 per capita	623	680	700	548	-
7. Secondary School Graduates	2005	% Pop. (18 yrs.)	75.7	68.3	73.0	68.4	-
8. University Completion	2005	% Pop. (25-54)	31.0	26.8	14.7	13.8	-
9. Scientists and Engineers Empl.	2005	% Employment	7.2	8.0	4.3	5.5	-
10. Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Pop.	2005	Form./1,000 Pop.	9.5	6.6	5.5	4.1	-

- Housing starts per thousand population have shown strong growth since 2000 (in the Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs) and 2001 (in Regional BC) but 2005 levels were still well below those seen in 1993, a peak year for the province as a whole.
- The value of real per capita non-residential building permits had been steady or falling for much of the 1993 through 2002 period, the average annual growth was negative 4.5%. BC experienced growth of 3.0% between 2002 and 2003, 6.7% between 2003 and 2004 and 50.2% between 2004 and 2005. All regions in BC shared in the recent growth.
- The Vancouver CMA has proportionately more high school graduates than Regional BC. In 2005, 75.7% of 18 year olds in the Vancouver CMA graduated from high school compared to 68.4% in Regional BC, 68.3% in the Victoria CMA and 73.0% in the Abbotsford CMA. All regions in BC saw strong growth in the proportion of 18 year olds who graduated from high school over the period 1996-2005.

- The Vancouver CMA also has proportionally more residents with university credentials than Regional BC. The proportion of the population with a university education was similar in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs and the proportion in Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA was similar; about half that of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs.
- The Victoria and Vancouver CMAs have a larger fraction of their employment in natural and applied sciences and related occupations than does Regional BC. The Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs had strong growth in this indicator between 1996 and 2005.
- Most of British Columbia's net new business formations occur in the Vancouver CMA. The number of net new business formations per thousand population has increased in all regions in every year since 2002 and in 2005 Vancouver matched its 1994 level, its previous peak.

Environment, Health and Society – Summary Findings

A review of available regional indicators for Environment, Health and Society shows that the Vancouver CMA typically performs better than Regional BC. However, the Vancouver CMA is not as dominant on this set of eight indicators as it is on measures of economy, innovation and education. The split is more even with Regional BC outperforming the Vancouver CMA on two indicators (low birth weight infants, and low income incidence) and one other (personal and property crime) showing no significant difference.

Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC							
Environment, Health and Society							
	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
11. Air Quality	2005	Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Conc.	6.0	5.4	5.2	6.1	-
12. Cancer Mortality	2005	Mort. Rate per 1,000	4.3	5.4	5.7	5.3	-
13. Life Expectancy at Birth	2005	Years	81.8	81.2	80.6	79.8	-
14. Low Birth Weight Rate	2005	percent of Live Births	6.0	5.5	5.1	5.0	+
15. Personal and Property Crime	2005	Incidents per 100 Pop.	7.6	6.5	8.4	7.4	ns
16. Social Condition	2004	% of Families	20.5	18.4	N/A	15.2	+
17. Employment Insurance	2005	% of Pop. (15-64)	2.5	2.3	3.8	3.7	-
18. Income Assistance	2005	% of Pop. (0-64)	1.2	1.3	1.6	2.1	-
Note: ns=no significant difference							

- Concentrations of particulate matter are generally higher outside of the Greater Vancouver Regional District and Lower Fraser Valley. Between 1994 and 2000 air quality improved (using the PM_{10} measure) in the six cities we review. Results are mixed between 2001 and 2005 based on the $PM_{2.5}$ measure.
- Cancer mortality in the Vancouver CMA is lower than in Regional BC, the Abbotsford CMA, and the Victoria CMA. The provincial rate in 2005 was 12.6 percent below the 1996 rate.

- Life expectancy at birth is marginally higher in the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) than in Regional BC. On average, life expectancy at birth increased by about 3½ months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1996 and 2005. Similarly, it increased on average, by 2 months per year in the Victoria CMA and in Regional BC, by 1½ months per year in the Abbotsford CMA and by 2½ months a year in BC as a whole.
- The Lower Mainland typically has a higher incidence of low birth weight infants than those seen in Regional BC and the Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs. The low birth weight ratio has been fairly volatile in all four regions but the average values for the three regions for the period 1996 through 2005 are quite close. The smallest difference being 2.1% between Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA and the largest difference being 12.7% between the Vancouver CMA and Regional BC.
- Personal and property crime rates were higher in the Vancouver CMA than in Regional BC over the 1990s and into the new century. Crime rates are lower in 2005 than in 1995 in all regions. Most regions saw crime rate increases in 2001, 2002 and 2003 followed by decreases in 2004 and 2005.
- On average, Vancouver has a higher incidence of people living below the low income cut-off than the Victoria CMA or Regional BC. The low income rate fell between 1995 and 2004 in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs but increased in Regional BC.
- All regions in British Columbia had increases in the proportion of population in receipt of Employment Insurance benefits in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, Vancouver and Regional BC had decreases in the proportion and Victoria and Abbotsford had increases. All regions had decreases in 2004 and 2005.
- The proportion of the population (aged 0-64) collecting Income Assistance (IA) benefits peaked in 1995 at 9.3% in the Vancouver CMA, 9.8% in the Victoria CMA, 10.8% in the Abbotsford CMA and 11.9% in Regional BC. Since 1995, the number of beneficiaries as a percent of the population (aged 0-64) has fallen by 86.5% in the Victoria CMA, 85.4% in the Abbotsford CMA, 86.8% in the Vancouver CMA and 82.4% in Regional BC.

Special Topics – Summary Findings

Development Region Results

- ***Employment Rate***

  The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2005 and for the 1996 through 2005 average. Its average employment rate was 4.6 percentage points (7.1%) higher than that in 2nd ranked North Coast & Nechako. The Kootenay Development Region had the lowest employment rate from 1996 through 2005 with an average rate of 55.9%, 12.8 percentage points (22.8%) lower than in the Northeast.

- ***Taxfilers' Employment Income***
  The Northeast and Lower Mainland-Southwest had the highest real per capita income among the Development Regions. Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1995 and 2004. The exception was the North Coast which had a decrease of 8.9%. The increases range from 2.4% in the Nechako Development Region to 16.2% in the Thompson-Okanagan.

- ***Manufacturing Shipments***
  The Cariboo and Nechako Development Regions had the highest real per capita manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $19,718 and $18,557, respectively, and the highest 1999-2003 average values as well. The Vancouver Island & Coast Development Region had the lowest level of manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $4,540 and for 1999-2003 at $5,090.

Health Authority Results

- ***Cancer Mortality***
  Over the period 1996 to 2005, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest cancer mortality rate among the Health Authorities with a rate of 14.7 deaths per 10,000 population. The Northern Health Authority reported the highest cancer mortality rate for 2005 (16.8 deaths per 10,000 population) and had the highest average cancer mortality rate for 1996 through 2005 at 18.3 deaths per 10,000 population. The cancer mortality rate in 2005 was lower than in 1996 in every region. Overall, British Columbia's cancer mortality rate was 11.2% lower in 2005 than in 1996.

- ***Cardiovascular Disease***
  The lowest 2005 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (13.6 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority; the highest (17.4) was in the Fraser Health Authority. Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2005 than in 1996 all across BC.

- ***Low Weight Births***
  The Fraser Health Authority had the highest 2005 rate of low weight births (6.0%) and the highest rate of low weight births, on average between 1996 and 2005, at 5.4%. The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2005 (4.8%) and the lowest 1996 through 2005 average rate (4.6%). The 2005 rate of low weight births was above the 1996 rate in four of the five regional Health Authorities.

Special Topics Related to Economy, Innovation and Education

- ***Secondary School Completion***
  In 2004/05, BC had a completion rate of 79% for all students and 48% for Aboriginal students. British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 93% in Richmond to 59% in Vancouver Island West.

- ***Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education***
  Aboriginal communities in BC and across Canada have suffered from an economic gap with the broader population, experiencing higher levels of unemployment and lower

incomes. For example, in 2001, the median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over was $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population registered a median income of $13,242. Educational achievement and enrollment rates have also lagged those of non-Aboriginal students. While the long-standing socioeconomic disparity certainly still exists, it has begun to narrow.

Special Topics Related to Environment, Health and Society

- ***Crime Rate by Municipality***
  Smithers saw the largest increase in its crime rate with a 63.1% increase from 185 incidents in 1996 per 1,000 population to 301 in 2005. In contrast, Sidney saw its crime rate drop by 49.0% from 106 incidents per 1,000 population in 1996 to 54 in 2005. Forty-two of the sixty-four municipalities with full data had lower crime rates in 2005 than in 1996.

- ***Status Indian Health and Population***
  British Columbia's Status Indian population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. As with employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Status Indian population is generally showing improvement relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite such improvements, a gap between BC's Status Indian and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy at birth and low birth weight infants. For example, life expectancy among the Status Indian population in BC in 2002 was 77.2 years – three and a half years shorter than BC's overall life expectancy of 80.8 years.

Outline of the Remainder of Volume II

The remainder of this volume is divided into three chapters and a number of appendices.

Chapter II is a special focus report on demographics.

Chapter III reports the economic benchmarks, focusing on measures of growth, prosperity, innovation and education.

Chapter IV reports the environment, health and society benchmarks.

Appendix A lists the Board members, Staff and Advisory Group.

Appendix B provides a discussion of Methodology.

Appendix C is a Glossary of Terms.

Appendix D consists of the data analysed in this Volume.

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II. Special Focus: Update on Demographics and Population Patterns in BC

Demographic Change in Canada

Population ageing is a relatively new issue. Human populations, until recently, had low life expectancies, high fertility rates and few people over the age of 65. Other than a period of population decline in Western Europe early in the 20th century, there is no past experience to act as a guide for dealing with issues associated with population ageing.[1]

Over the next four decades, many developed countries will likely experience a significant ageing of their populations. This is driven by the combination of declining fertility rates since the late 1960s and increasing life expectancy in recent years, and is most commonly discussed in relation to the ageing of those born between 1944 and 1964, the baby boom generation. An ageing population is a concern for a number of reasons but the main one is the pressure on public finances in general and health care spending in particular that results from the fact that most health spending occurs late in life.

Projections of Age-Related Spending, percent of GDP

	Total Age-Related Spending		
Country	2000	2050	Percentage Point Change, 2000 - 2050
Canada	**17.9**	**26.6**	**8.7**
Denmark	29.3	35.0	5.7
Finland	19.4	27.9	8.5
France	18.0	24.4	6.4
Germany	17.5	25.6	8.1
Japan	13.7	16.7	3.0
Korea	3.1	11.6	8.5
Netherlands	19.1	29.0	9.9
New Zealand	18.7	27.1	8.4
Norway	17.9	31.3	13.4
Spain	15.6	26.1	10.5
Sweden	29.0	32.2	3.2
United Kingdom	15.6	15.8	0.2
United States	11.2	16.7	5.5
Average	21.2	27.0	5.8

Note: "average" includes the countries listed as well as Australia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy and Poland.

Source: Casey et al. (2003), page 35.

Age-related spending[2] as a percent of GDP in OECD countries is expected to increase from the 2000 level of approximately 21 to about 27 percent by 2050. This is largely driven by expected increases in spending on old age pensions and health and long-term care, while spending on education is expected to decrease on average, but only enough to provide a small offset to increases in other social spending areas. Generally speaking, the OECD definition of age-related spending refers to public expenditure programmes which are affected by demographic shifts.

On average, age-related spending in OECD countries represented 21.2 percent of GDP in 2000 and is expected to increase by 5.8 percentage points through 2050. Canada had a below-average level of age-related spending at 17.9 percent of GDP in 2000, but is expected to experience an above-average increase of 8.7 percentage points to 26.6 percent of GDP by 2050. Further, unlike most OECD countries, Canada may experience spending pressures beyond 2050, while pressure is expected to peak between 2025 and 2035 for most countries.

The most recent Statistics Canada population projection notes that Canada faces the unprecedented situation of more seniors (65 and older) than children (15 and younger) by 2015. Although actions

can be taken to try and mitigate the effects, population ageing in BC and Canada as a whole is inevitable as it is built into the age structure of the current population.

Demographic Changes Expected in BC

There will be significant demographic change in BC in the coming years as reflected in dependency ratios, the fertility rate, and the median age.

The dependency ratio is a crude, age-specific measure of the proportion of a population which is dependent on the working age population. Three are typically reported: child dependency, the ratio of those aged 0 to 17 to those aged 18 to 64; elderly dependency, the ratio of those aged 65 and older to those aged 18 to 64; and total dependency, the sum of child and elderly dependency. These are crude measures in the sense that some people in the 0 to 17 and 65 and older age groups will be working and some in the 18 to 64 group will not. Nevertheless, these ratios give us a reasonable idea of dependency in a population.

Dependency Ratios in British Columbia

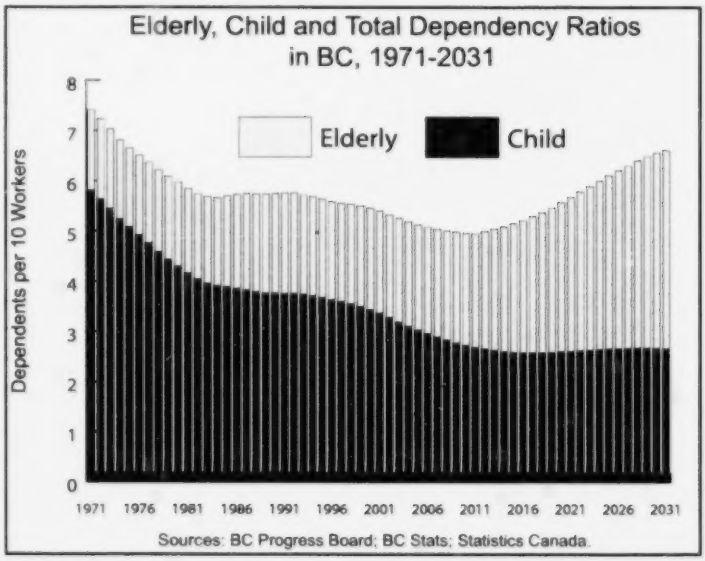
	Dependency Ratio		
Year	Elderly	Child	Total
1976	1.6	4.9	6.5
1981	1.7	4.2	5.9
1986	1.9	3.9	5.7
1991	2.0	3.8	5.8
1996	2.0	3.6	5.6
2001	2.0	3.4	5.4
2006	2.1	3.0	5.1
2011	2.3	2.7	5.0
2016	2.6	2.6	5.3
2021	3.1	2.7	5.8
2026	3.5	2.7	6.3
2031	3.9	2.7	6.6

Notes:
Dependency Definitions:
Child = population ages 0-17 divided by population ages 18-64 times 10.
Elderly = population ages 65+ divided by population ages 18-64 times 10.
Total = the sum of child and elderly dependency.
Interpretation: in 1976, there were 4.9 children for every 10 workers in BC.

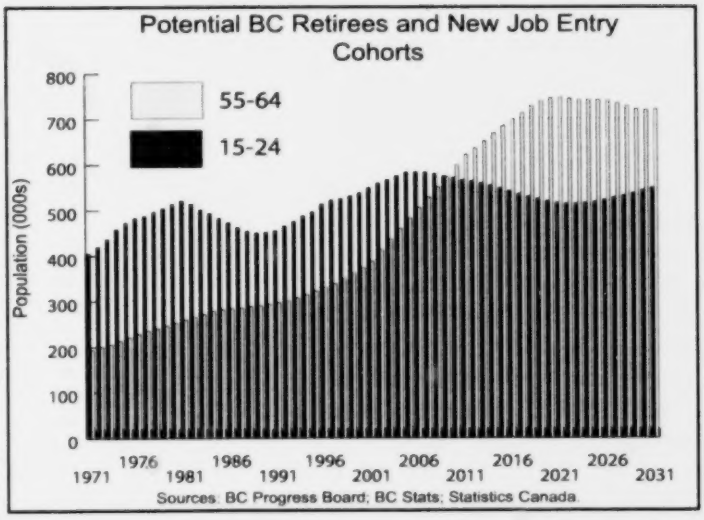
Source: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

The child dependency ratio in BC has fallen from 4.9 in 1976 to 3.0 in 2006 and is expected to fall further to 2.7 by 2031. A child dependency rate of 3.0 means there are 3 children for every 10 workers or people in the 18 to 64 age group.

The elderly dependency ratio in BC has increased from 1.6 in 1971 to 2.1 in 2006 and is expected to reach 3.9 in 2031. This pattern shows that the total dependency ratio has fallen since 1976 and is expected to continue to fall until it reaches 5.0 by 2011. The rate is then expected to increase to 6.6 by 2031, driven by population ageing. British Columbia's 2006 elderly dependency ratio was 2.1, meaning there were roughly 2



elderly dependents for every 10 workers in BC.



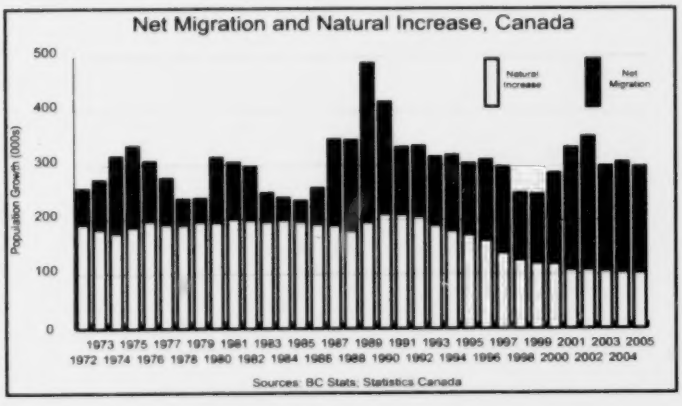
The replacement fertility rate, that is the birth level that will keep a population constant with no immigration or emigration is 2,100 births per 1,000 women. British Columbia's fertility rate has fallen from 2,240 (above replacement) in 1971 to 1,381 in 2005 (below replacement) and is expected to fall further to 1,346 by 2031.

The median age is the age at which half the population is younger and half is older. An ageing population will have a progressively higher median age. In 1971, the median age of BC's population was 27.8 years. By 2005, it had increased to 39.5 years and is expected to increase further, to 46.2 by 2031. Median age at death has increased from 72.5 years in 1971 to 79.0 years in 2005 and is expected to be 81.5 years in 2031.

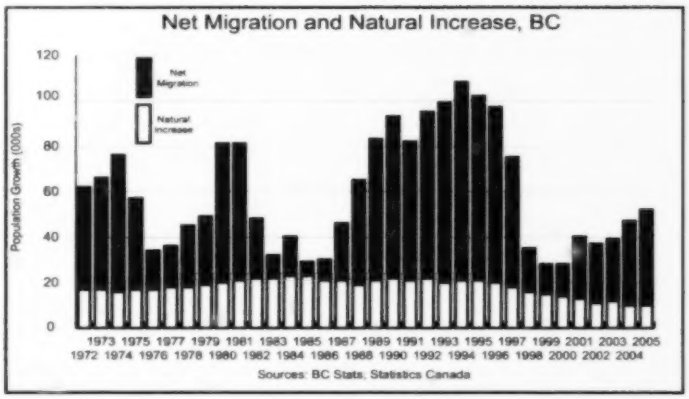
Our ageing population will rapidly increase the demand for social services (particularly health care and income support) at the same time as the workforce slows in growth: the number of 0 to 19 year olds today, who will enter the labour force in the next two decades, is 26% smaller than today's number of 40 to 59 year olds, who will retire by 2021. New entrants into the workforce (15-24 year olds) will be out-numbered by those entering retirement by 2011.

The Importance of Immigration

In a country where the foreign-born share of the population grew from 3.7 percent in the 1950s to 18.4 percent in the 2001 census, few would dispute the positive economic benefits and importance of past immigration efforts to the country's development. As a result of the decline in natural population increase Canada has become more dependent on immigration as a source of population growth. In fact, in recent years this dependence has increased to the point where, between 2000 and 2005 net international migration to Canada accounted for the majority (65% on average) of population growth. As the population continues to age, and fertility rates remain low, population growth will become even more closely tied to immigration rates. In fact, immigration is predicted to account for all net labour force growth in Canada by 2011



and all net population growth by 2031.



The share of immigration population growth (both international and inter-provincial) in BC is more volatile than for Canada as a whole due to the economy-dependant swings in inter-provincial migration. Immigration has accounted for as little as 20.6 percent of annual population growth in BC and as much as 80.7 percent over the period 1972-2005. British Columbia and Canada expect to rely increasingly on immigration to fuel population growth and to fill skilled jobs. However, almost all developed nations are facing the same demographic and skill challenges that we are. British Columbia and Canada in general must continue to make efforts to attract immigrants.

Recent and Projected Population Growth by Region in BC

Although BC's population grew in every year between 1990 and 2005, growth has been focussed in the Vancouver Island-Coast, Mainland-Southwest and Thompson-Okanagan Development Regions. Population grew by 35.3 percent in the Mainland-Southwest Development Region, by 34.0 percent in the Thompson-Okanagan Development Region and by 22.3 percent in Vancouver Island-Coast Development Region. Population in the North Coast fell by 2.7 percent between 1990 and 2005. Year over year population changes by Development Region were almost always positive between 1990 and 1997. This contrasts with the year over year population decreases seen in many Development Regions over 1997 through 2002. More recent data show that all Development Regions saw increases in 2003 and 2004 and all but the Cariboo (-0.1%) and North Coast (-0.3%) Development Regions had population increases in 2005.

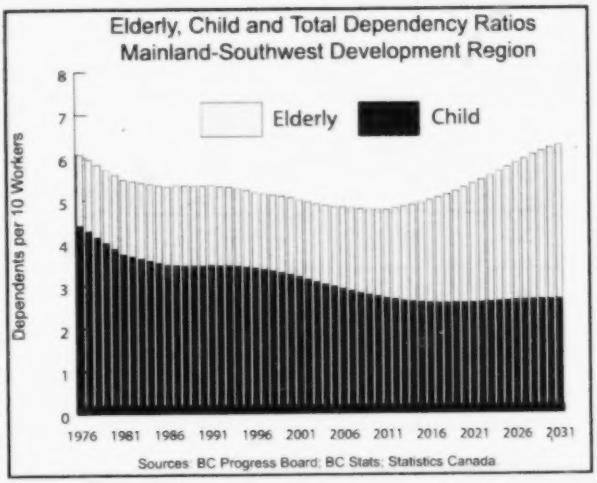
BC Population by Development Region

	1990 - 1997		1997 - 2005		1990 - 2005		2005
	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Change	Percent Change	Percent of Total Population
Vancouver Island/Coast	102,465	16.8	33,961	4.8	136,426	22.3	17.6
Mainland/Southwest	413,875	22.5	235,231	10.5	649,106	35.3	58.4
Thompson-Okanagan	92,438	24.1	37,802	7.9	130,240	34.0	12.1
Kootenay	15,735	11.5	2,395	1.6	18,130	13.2	3.6
Cariboo	19,143	12.3	(2,552)	(1.5)	16,591	10.7	4.0
North Coast	3,785	5.6	(5,578)	(7.9)	(1,793)	(2.7)	1.5
Nechako	3,956	9.6	84	0.2	4,040	9.8	1.1
Northeast	6,333	10.8	4,635	7.1	10,968	18.7	1.6
British Columbia	**657,730**	**20.0**	**305,978**	**7.8**	**963,708**	**29.3**	

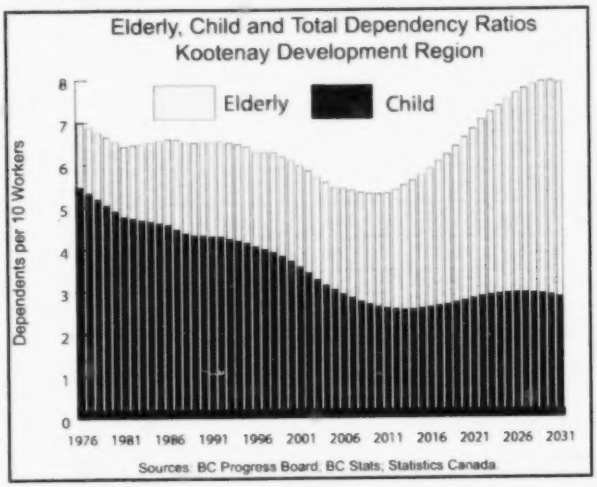
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada

Population Change and the Elderly Dependency Ratio								
	Population Change (percent)		Share of Population (percent)			Elderly Dependency Ratio		
	1976 - 2006	2006-2031	1976	2006	2031	1976	2006	2031
Vancouver Island-Coast	56.6	21.4	18.8	17.4	16.3	1.94	2.66	4.73
Mainland-Southwest	87.2	35.6	53.0	58.7	61.4	1.67	1.92	3.60
Thompson-Okanagan	68.5	29.4	12.0	12.0	12.0	1.66	2.88	4.37
Kootenay	18.6	4.5	5.1	3.6	2.9	1.52	2.50	5.07
Cariboo	30.1	12.5	5.3	4.1	3.5	0.54	1.47	3.65
North Coast	4.6	14.1	2.5	1.5	1.4	0.55	1.34	3.65
Nechako	31.1	17.6	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.67	1.44	3.53
Northeast	48.8	22.0	1.8	1.6	1.5	0.79	1.25	3.26
British Columbia	**69.1**	**29.6**	n/a	n/a	n/a	**1.60**	**2.13**	**3.90**
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada								

Population increases are expected in all of BC's eight Development Regions between 2006 and 2031. The smallest growth (4.5%) is expected in the Kootenay Development Region where the natural rate of increase (i.e., excess of births over deaths) was negative in 2002-2003. This region is expected to have the highest elderly and total dependency ratios (5.1 and 7.9 respectively) in BC in 2031, when only 2 in 10 people in the Kootenays are expected to be in the 18 to 64 age group.



Strong growth is expected in the Mainland-Southwest and Thompson-Okanagan Development Regions. Population in the Mainland-Southwest is expected to grow by 35.6 percent between 2006 and 2031 and increase its share of BC's population from 58.7 to 61.4 percent. Further, this region is expected to have the lowest total dependency ratio at 6.3 and the third lowest elderly dependency ratio at 3.6. The Thompson-Okanagan can expect similar growth, 29.4 percent between 2006 and 2031 and will maintain its share of BC's population at 12.0 percent. Although this region can expect strong population growth, its natural rate of increase recently turned negative and it can expect relatively high dependency ratios by 2031, 4.4 for elderly and 7.2 in total. The figures opposite show the child, elderly and total dependency ratios for the Mainland-Southwest and Kootenay Development Regions.



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III. Economy, Innovation and Education

	Regional Performance Indicators	
	1.	Jobs: Employment Rate
	2.	Taxfilers' Employment Income
	3.	Manufacturing Shipments
	4.	Retail Sales
	5.	Housing Starts - Dwelling Units
	6.	Non-Residential Building Permits
	7.	Secondary School Graduates
	8.	University Completion
	9.	Scientists and Engineers Employed
	10.	Net New Business Formation

Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

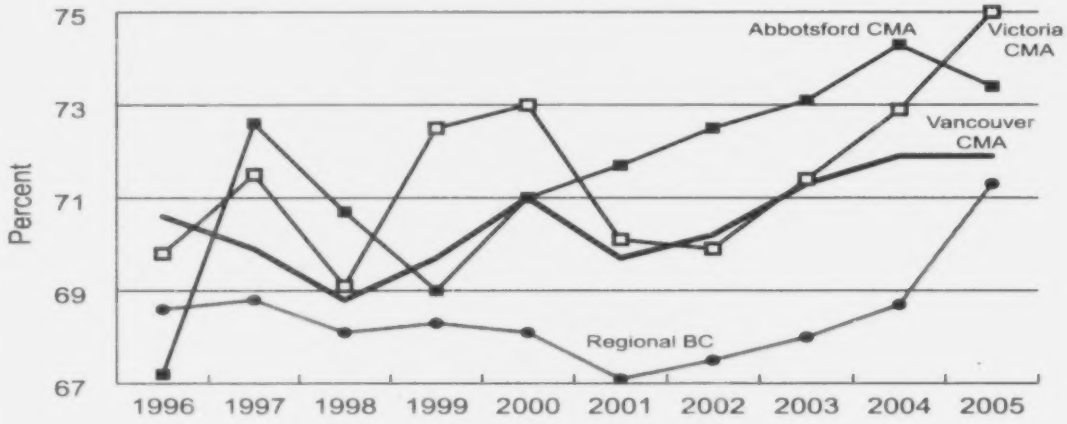
Economy, Innovation and Education

	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
1. Jobs: Employment Rate	2005	% Pop. (15-64)	71.9	75.0	73.4	71.3	-
2. Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita	2004	$1992 per capita	15,860	14,721	n/a	13,821	-
3. Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita	2003	$1992 per capita	7,104	2,066	n/a	10,125	+
4. Retail Sales Per Capita	2005	$1992 per capita	8,379	n/a	n/a	10,373	+
5. Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population	2005	Starts/1,000 Pop.	8.8	6.1	6.0	7.9	-
6. Non-Res. Building Permits Per Capita	2005	$1992 per capita	623	680	700	548	-
7. Secondary School Graduates	2005	% Pop. (18 yrs.)	75.7	68.3	73.0	68.4	-
8. University Completion	2005	% Pop. (25-54)	31.0	26.8	14.7	13.8	-
9. Scientists and Engineers Empl.	2005	% Employment	7.2	8.0	4.3	5.5	-
10. Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Pop.	2005	Form./1,000 Pop.	9.5	6.6	5.5	4.1	-

Performance Indicator 1 — BC Regional Comparison

Jobs: Employment Rate

Employment Rate (Ages 15 - 64), Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator shows, for the population aged 15 to 64, the number of employed persons (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business) expressed as a percentage of the total.

Why it's Important

The employment rate is an effective measure of labour utilization. High labour utilization traditionally accompanies strong economic activity.

Analysis

British Columbia's employment rate increased by 1.5% (1.0 percentage points) between 2004 and 2005. Regional BC and most of the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) saw improvement although the Abbotsford CMA's employment rate fell by 1.2% (0.9 percentage points). The Vancouver CMA's employment rate held constant, the Victoria CMA's grew by 3.0% (2.2 percentage points) and Regional BC's increased by 3.7% (2.5 percentage points).

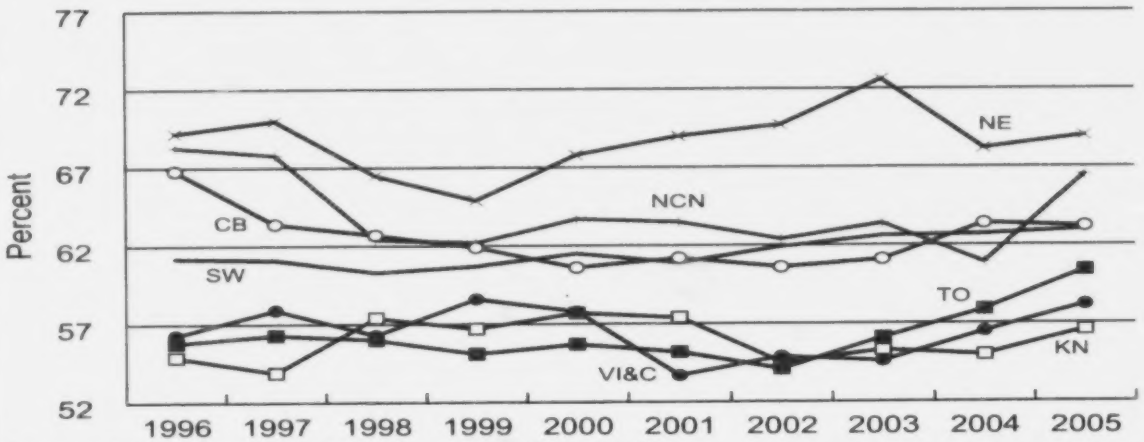
In 2005, 71.9 percent of the people aged 15-64 in the Vancouver CMA were employed. This ratio was 0.9% higher than the 71.3% in Regional BC but was 2.0% lower than in the Abbotsford CMA (73.4%) and 4.1% lower than the ratio of 75.0 in the Victoria CMA.

All regions in BC saw improvement in their employment rates between 1996 and 2005, led by a 6.2 percentage point increase in the Abbotsford CMA. British Columbia's lowest employment rate over this period was 68.6 percent in 1998. Other than the decline in the Abbotsford CMA and a lack of growth in the Vancouver CMA between 2004 and 2005 employment rates in all regions have been strong in recent years. Regional BC has seen growth in the last four years with a large increase between 2004 and 2005. The Vancouver CMA's employment rate grew in 2002, 2003 and 2004 while the Victoria CMA's rate grew in 2003, 2004 and 2005. The rate increased in every year between 2000 and 2004 inclusive.

Performance Indicator 1 Supplemental Information: By Development Region

Jobs: Employment Rate

Employment Rate (Ages 15+), BC Development Regions



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Employment Rate (Ages 15+) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	2005 Rank	1996 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1996 - 2005 Average	1996 - 2005 Minimum	1996 - 2005 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	6	56.5	5	53.7	58.6
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	4	61.6	4	60.3	63
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	5	56.3	6	54.1	60.4
Kootenay	KN	7	55.9	7	53.9	57.7
Cariboo	CB	3	62.5	3	60.6	66.8
North Coast & Nechako	NCN	2	64.1	2	60.9	68.3
Northeast	NE	1	68.7	1	64.9	72.6
British Columbia			60.1		59.0	61.8

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

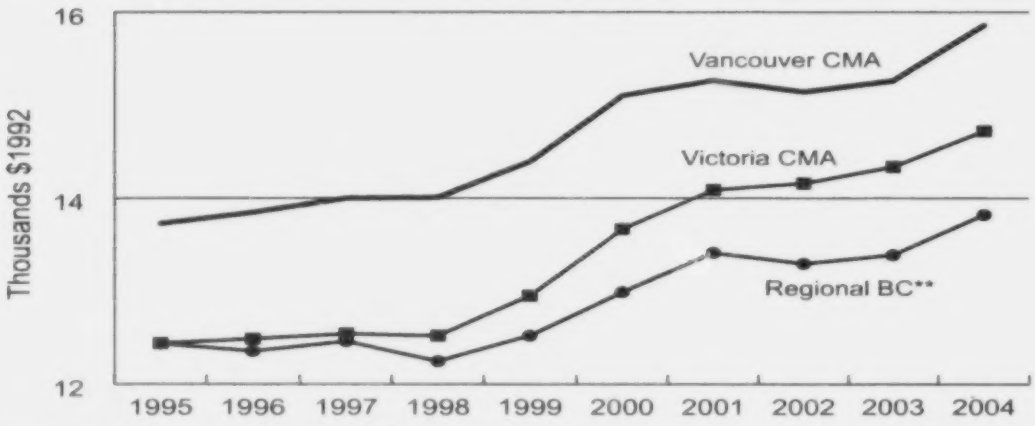
The Northeast had the highest employment rate among the Development Regions in 2005 and for the 1996 through 2005 average. Its average employment rate was 4.6 percentage points (7.1%) higher than that in 2nd ranked North Coast & Nechako. The Kooteny Development Region had the lowest employment rate from 1996 through 2005 with an average rate of 55.9%, 12.8 percentage points (22.8%) lower than in the Northeast.

Over the period of analysis, the lowest employment rate among the Development Regions was 53.7% for Vancouver Island-Coast in 2001. Over the same period, the highest rate observed was the Northeast's 2003 value of 72.6%.

Notes: The North Coast and Nechako Development Regions are combined in the Labour Force Survey, the source for these data. The population group used in this comparison differs from other Progress Board comparisons because these data are not readily available by Development Region.

Taxfilers' Employment Income ($1992)

Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita, Vancouver Victoria* and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the income earned by British Columbians from employment and self-employment as reported to the Canada Revenue Agency on tax returns. For tax purposes, employment/self-employment includes wages, salaries, taxable allowances, benefits, commissions, tips and gratuities as well as net income from fishing and farming operations, net professional and unincorporated business income and net commission income.

Why it's Important

This indicator is a measure of economic activity and individual prosperity.

Analysis (Per Capita Employment Income)

Real per capita employment income grew by 11.1% between 1995 and 2004 in Regional BC. The Vancouver CMA saw growth of 15.5% while the Victoria CMA's growth was 18.4%. In 2004, real per capita employment income was $13,821 in Regional BC**, $14,721 in the Victoria CMA and $15,860 in the Vancouver CMA. The Victoria CMA's average annual growth in real per capita employment income between 1995 and 2004 was 1.6%; the Vancouver CMA's was 1.5% and Regional BC's** was 1.2%.

Analysis (Total Employment Income)

In 1995, real employment income of taxfilers was $27.5 billion in the Vancouver CMA, $4.2 billion in the Victoria CMA and $19.8 billion in Regional BC** for a provincial total $51.5 billion. By 2004, real employment income had grown to $41.5 billion in the Vancouver CMA, $6.0 billion in the Victoria CMA, and $26.7 billion in Regional BC** for a provincial total of $74.2 billion.

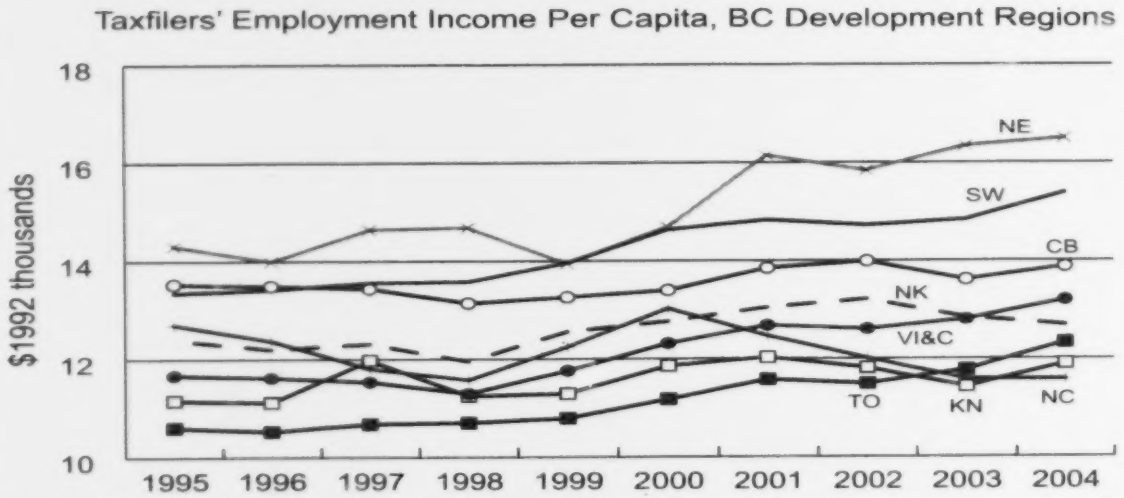
A Note on the Abbotsford CMA

Data for the Abbotsford CMA are available for 2001 onwards but have been included with Regional BC in this report. When a longer time series allows a more complete analysis we will show Abbotsford separately. Data for the Abbotsford CMA are included in the appendix tables however.

Notes: *The Victoria CMA consists of the Capital Regional District less the Gulf Islands for this indicator. **Includes the Abbotsford CMA. Prior to 2005, the data for this indicator were obtained from the Canada Revenue Agency. The data now come from Statistics Canada's Small Area & Administrative Data Division (SAADD). The two sets are identical except that SAADD offers an additional two years of data.

Performance Indicator 2 Supplemental Information: By Development Region

Taxfilers' Employment Income ($1992)



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	2004 Rank	1995 - 2004 Average	Rank for 1995 - 2004 Average	1995 - 2004 Minimum	1995 - 2004 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	4	12,152	5	11,301	13,200
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	2	14,230	2	13,352	15,387
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	6	11,170	8	10,532	12,333
Kootenay	KN	7	11,586	7	11,125	12,031
Cariboo	CB	3	13,561	3	13,142	13,988
North Coast	NC	8	12,140	6	11,580	13,028
Nechako	NK	5	12,600	4	11,955	13,217
Northeast	NE	1	15,109	1	13,947	16,500
British Columbia			13,327		10,532	16,500

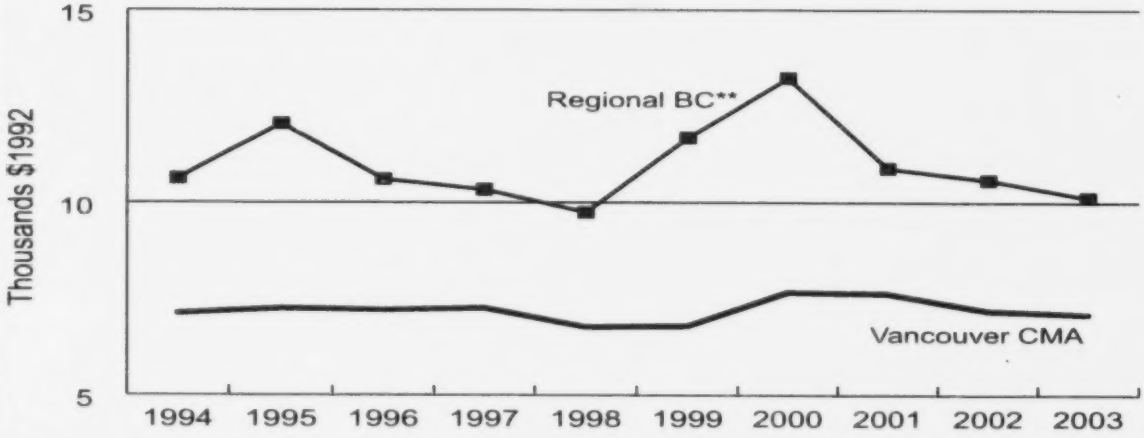
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The Northeast and Lower Mainland-Southwest had the highest real per capita income among the Development Regions. The Northeast was first in 2004 with real per capita income of $16,500; the Lower Mainland-Southwest Development Region was second with real per capita income of $15,387. The Northeast and Lower Mainland Development Regions held the same respective positions for the average real per capita income between 1995 and 2004 at $15,109 and $14,230.

Seven Development Regions saw increases in their real per capita income between 1995 and 2004. The exception was the North Coast which had a decrease of 8.9%. The increases range from 2.4% in the Nechako Development Region to 16.2% in the Thompson-Okanagan.

Manufacturing Shipments

Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator is a measure of manufacturing activity per capita in thousands of 1992 dollars. The major sources of BC's manufacturing shipments are: wood products, paper products, food and fabricated metal & machinery. Wood products is the largest at 30.9% of total manufacturing shipments, followed by paper products at 13.9%, food manufacturing at 11.9% and fabricated metal products and machinery manufacturing at a combined 9.8%. Taken together, these industries were responsible for 66.5% of BC manufacturing shipments in 2004.***

Why it's Important

This indicator plays a vital role in measuring an area's overall economic activity.

Analysis (Per Capita Employment Income)

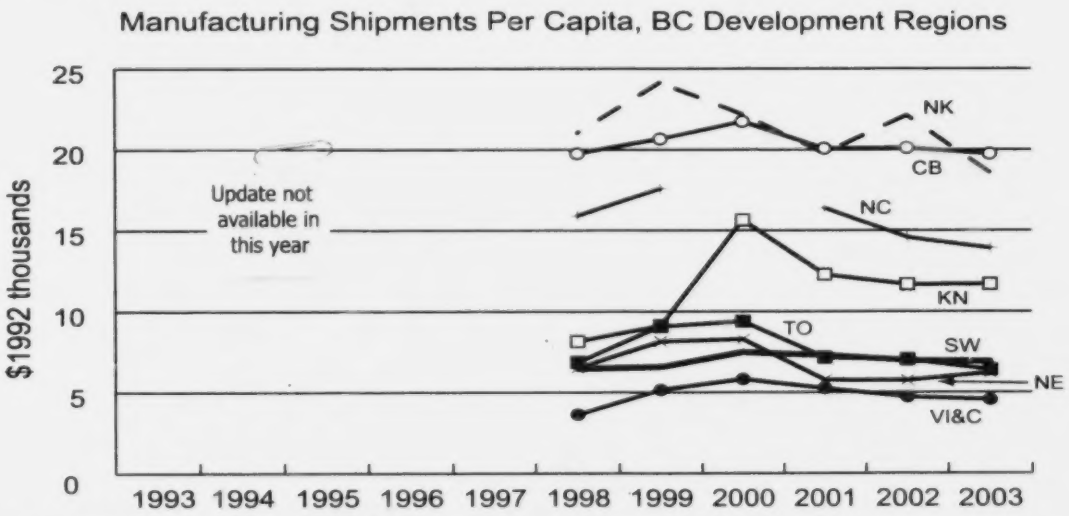
Manufacturing shipments remained an important part of overall provincial GDP throughout the 1990s and into the current decade. Manufacturing shipments were equal to 29.1% of BC's GDP, on average, between 1990 and 2003, ranging from a low of 25.9% in 2003 to a high of 32.4% in 1995. Real manufacturing shipments were $26.9 billion in 1990 and $31.4 billion in 2003.

Real manufacturing shipments per capita were $7,553 in BC in 2003. Regional BC's real manufacturing shipments per capita were $10,125 in 2003, compared to $7,104 in the Vancouver CMA and $2,066 in the Victoria CMA. Data for the Abbotsford CMA are available from 2002 onwards; Abbotsford has been included with Regional BC because of the short time series available. If the Abbotsford CMA were separated out it would show real manufacturing shipments per capita of $7,180 in 2003, close to the values for the Vancouver CMA and well below that for Regional BC.

Notes: *Victoria's shipments generally represent less than 2.0% of the total and have been left off this figure. **Includes the Abbotsford CMA. ***BC Stats, British Columbia Manufacturing Shipments, 1997-2004, September 14, 2005.

Performance Indicator 3 Supplemental Information: By Development Region

Manufacturing Shipments ($1992)



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region

Development Region	Abbr.	2003 Rank	1999 - 2003 Average	Rank for 1999 - 2003 Average	1999 - 2003 Minimum	1999 - 2003 Maximum
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	8	5,090	8	4,540	5,807
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	5	7,040	6	6,567	7,474
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	6	7,804	5	6,392	9,380
Kootenay	KN	4	12,073	4	9,123	15,640
Cariboo	CB	1	20,455	2	19,718	21,729
North Coast	NC	3	15,593	3	13,873	17,581
Nechako	NK	2	21,342	1	18,557	24,139
Northeast	NE	7	6,838	7	5,766	8,277
British Columbia			8,094		4,540	24,139

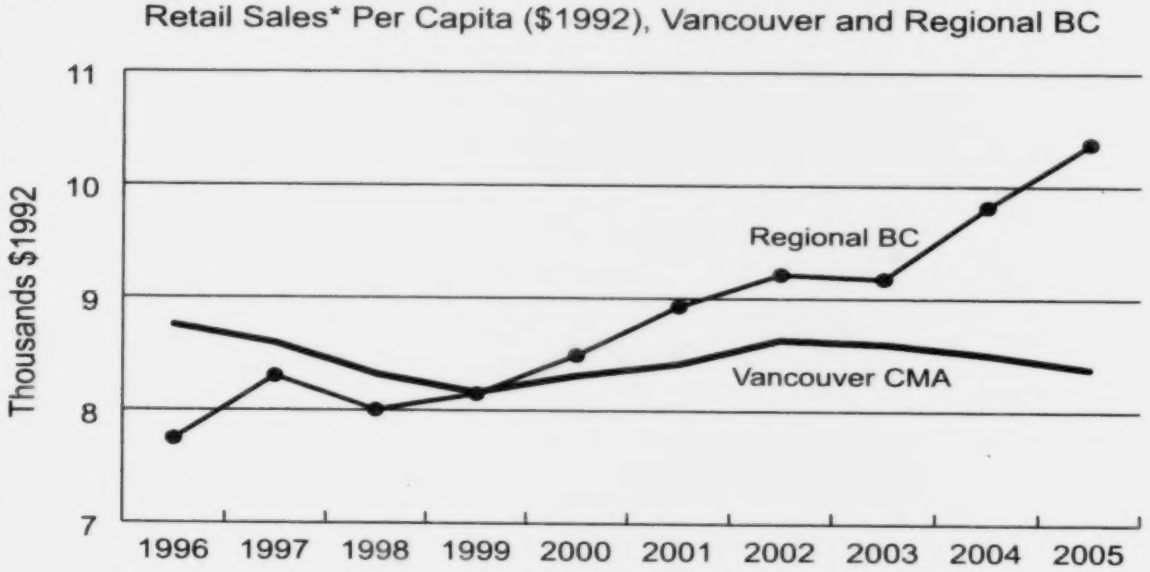
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The Cariboo and Nechako Development Regions had the highest real per capita manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $19,718 and $18,557, respectively, and the highest 1999-2003 average values as well. The Vancouver Island & Coast Development Region had the lowest level of manufacturing shipments in 2003 at $4,540 and for 1999-2003 at $5,090.

Note: The survey used to collect these data was expanded to include all manufacturing units effective 2000; this results in a break in the above series. Statistics Canada notes that the additional establishments represent less than 5% of total revenue from the sale of manufactured goods.

Performance Indicator 4 — BC Regional Comparison

Retail Sales



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures sales at retail outlets. Direct sales which bypass the retail store such as vending machine sales and door-to-door printed materials sold by a publisher directly are excluded; sales taxes and non-operating revenue are also excluded.

Why it's Important

Retail sales constitute a significant proportion of GDP and are used as a measure of economic performance. Retail trade is one of BC's largest sources of employment. In 2005, 254,800 people were employed in BC's retail trade.**

Analysis (Real Per Capita Retail Sales)

Real per capita retail sales were $8,379 in the Vancouver CMA and $10,373 in the Victoria CMA, Abbotsford CMA and Regional BC combined* in 2005. Real per capita retail sales in the Vancouver CMA were 4.3% ($375) lower in 2005 than in 1996. Real per capita retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA grew by 33.9% ($2,625) between 1996 and 2005. The Vancouver CMA witnessed decreases in real per capita retail sales in every year between 1996 and 1999 and again between 2003 and 2005; areas outside of the Vancouver CMA had decreases in 1998 and 2003.

Analysis (Total Retail Sales)

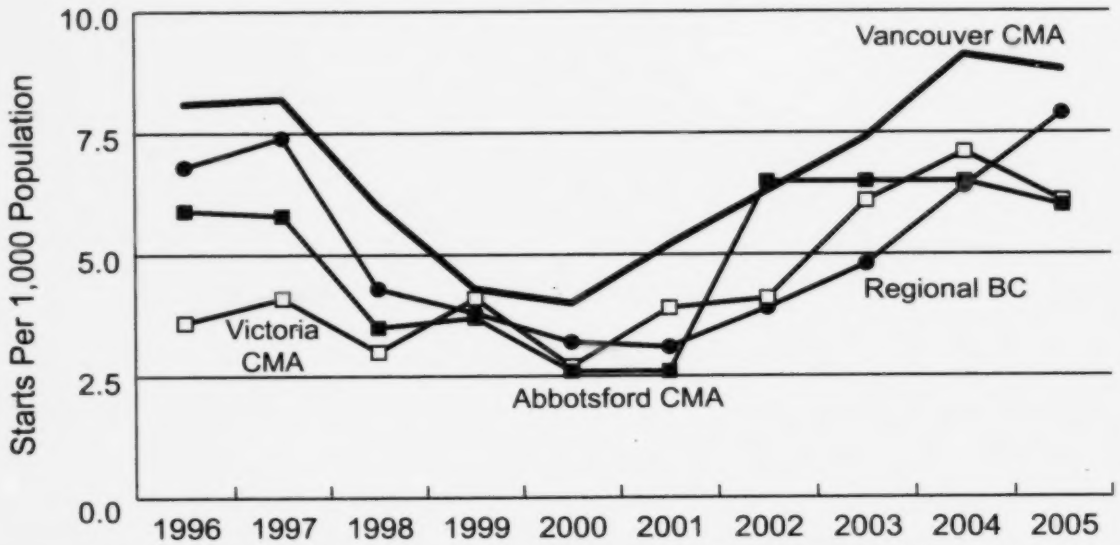
Between 1996 and 2005, average annual growth in real retail sales was much stronger in Regional BC (4.0%) than in the Vancouver CMA (0.6%). Real retail sales outside of the Vancouver CMA were lower in 1998 ($16.0 billion) than in 1997 ($16.6 billion); other than this decrease they grew by an average of 4.9%, year over year, between 1996 and 2005.

Note: *Separate retail sales data are not available for Victoria or Abbotsford. **Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, prepared by BC Stats.

Performance Indicator 5 — BC Regional Comparison

Housing Starts - Dwelling Units

Housing Starts Per Thousand Population, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Description

This indicator measures the number of dwelling units started and the number of permits issued for construction. It represents the count of dwelling units in new structures designated for non-transient year-round occupancy. The start is recorded when a footing is installed. All new units are counted for urban areas of 10,000 or greater population. Less populated areas are sampled and an estimate is included.

Why it's Important

Housing starts are considered a good leading indicator for home sales and a major indicator of economic activity and consumer confidence. Housing construction is an important generator of employment. One estimate suggests that each housing start creates 2.8 person-years of employment.*

Analysis (Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population)

Housing starts per 1,000 population in 2005 were up 118% in the Vancouver CMA, 127% in the Victoria CMA, 131% in the Abbotsford CMA and 145% in Regional BC over their levels in 2000. Unfortunately, 2000 was a trough year for the CMAs while 2001 was a trough for Regional BC. Housing starts peaked in the early 1990s in BC. The levels of per capita housing starts seen in 2005 were 28% lower than the 1993 peak in the Vancouver CMA, 31% lower than the 1990 peak in the Victoria CMA, 39% lower than the 1992 peak in Regional BC, and 69% lower than the 1990 peak in the Abbotsford CMA.

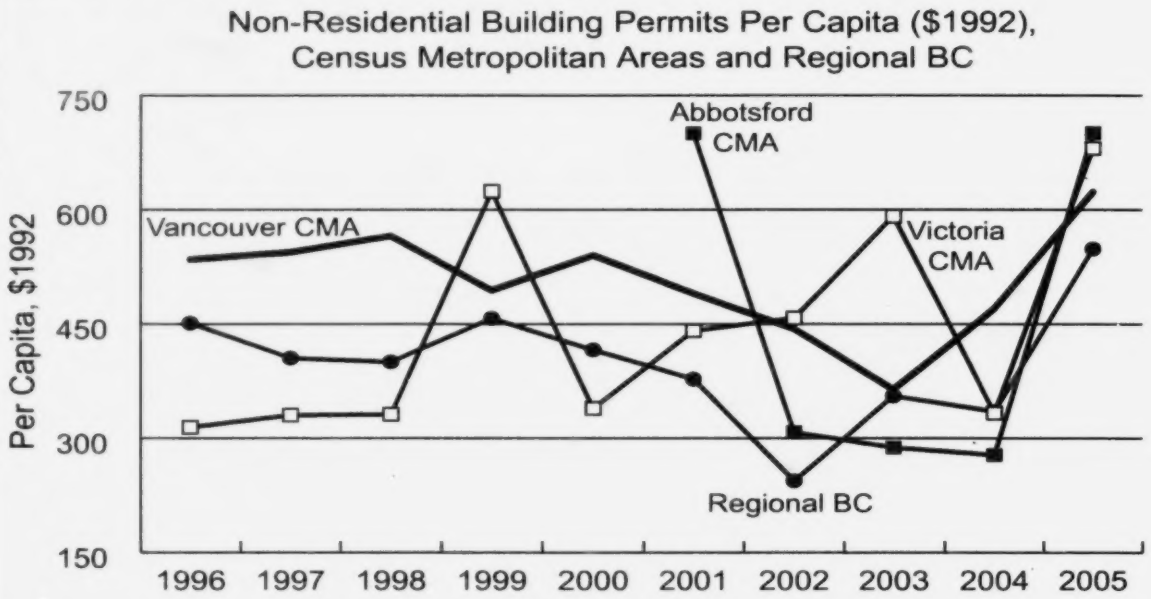
Analysis (Total Housing Starts)

Housing starts fell sharply in the 1990s. Housing starts in BC peaked at 42,807 in 1993 and fell to a low of 14,418 in 2000. Annual housing starts in BC were 128% higher in 2005 than in 2000.

Note: *CMHC, The Current Performance of the Housing Industry in Canada, 1999.

Performance Indicator 6 — BC Regional Comparison

Non-Residential Building Permits



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Description

This indicator measures the dollar value of permits issued by municipalities and regional districts for non-residential buildings. It includes industrial, commercial and institutional construction, as well as new government buildings. Also included are alterations, renovations and additions to non-residential buildings.

Why it's Important

The value of non-residential building permits issued is an important measure of a jurisdiction's economic activity and attractiveness to investors.

Analysis (Real Per Capita Non-Residential Building Permits)

The value of real per capita non-residential building permits had been steady or falling for much of the 1993 through 2002 period, the average annual growth was negative 4.5%. BC experienced growth of 3.0% between 2002 and 2003, 6.7% between 2003 and 2004 and 50.2% between 2004 and 2005. All regions in BC shared in the recent growth. Between 2004 and 2005, the real value of permits grew by 33% in the Vancouver CMA, 64% in Regional BC, 104% in the Victoria CMA and 152% in the Abbotsford CMA.

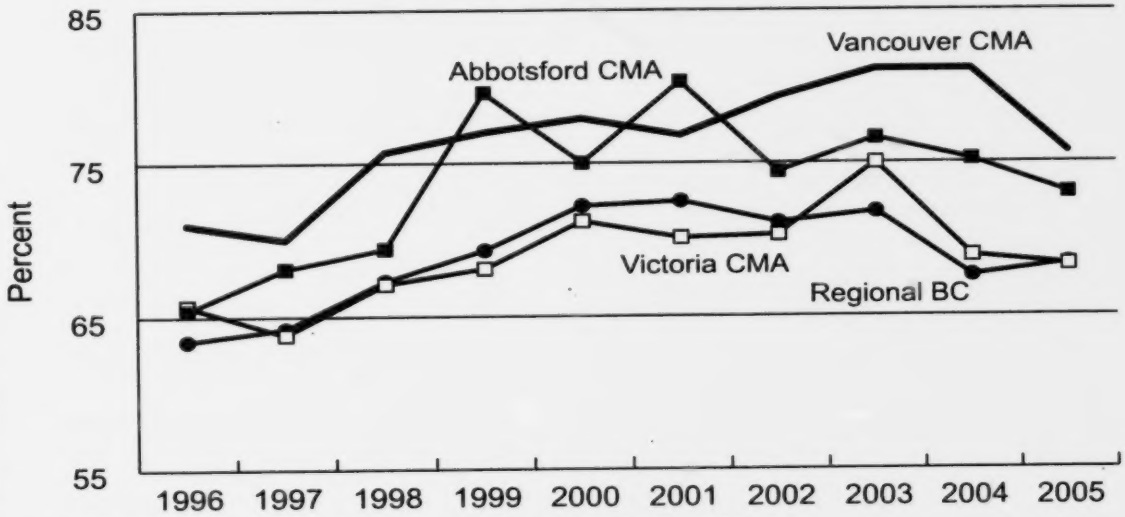
Analysis (Total Non-Residential Building Permits)

The value of real non-residential building permits had been steady or falling for much of the 1993 through 2002 period, the average annual growth was negative 2.9%. BC experienced growth of 3.9% between 2002 and 2003, 7.9% between 2003 and 2004 and 52.1% between 2004 and 2005. All regions in BC shared in the 2004-2005 growth. The last time all regions had positive growth was between 1994 and 1995.

Performance Indicator 7 BC Regional Comparison

Secondary School Graduates

High School Graduates as a Percent of the 18 Year Old Population, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Education.

Description

This indicator represents the number of Grade 12 students who have graduated in the school year beginning in the year noted including those graduating as a result of August provincial exams. It is expressed as a percentage of the 18 year old population on July 1st of that year. Both public and private schools are included.

Why it's Important

Levels of education tend to correlate strongly with future personal prosperity and well-being. With the "knowledge" content of most jobs steadily increasing, high school graduation is deemed essential as a base qualification for other "higher learning".

Analysis

In 2005, 75.7% of 18 year olds in the Vancouver CMA graduated from high school. This was higher than the rates in the Abbotsford CMA (73.0%), the Victoria CMA (68.3%) and Regional BC (68.4%).

All regions in BC have seen growth in the proportion of 18 year olds who graduate from high school. Between 1996 and 2005, the proportion increased by 9.3 percentage points (14.4%) in the Victoria CMA, 10.0 percentage points (14.2%) in the Vancouver CMA, by 11.2 percentage points (17.2%) in the Abbotsford CMA, and by 8.4 percentage points (13.3%) in Regional BC.

The Vancouver CMA's average annual growth rate for the proportion of the 18 year old population that graduated from high school was 1.3% between 1996 and 2005. The equivalent rates for the other areas considered are: Victoria CMA (1.0%), Abbotsford CMA (1.1%), and, Regional BC (0.6%).

Notes: There may be slight variations between graduation rates contained in this report and those reported by provincial Ministries of Education. Data used in this indicator are made comparable across jurisdictions by Statistics Canada. Abbotsford is the sum of School Districts 34 & 75, Vancouver is the sum of School Districts 35-45, Victoria is the sum of School Districts 61-63.

Performance Indicator 7 — Supplemental Information: Completion Rate

School Completion Rate

In 2004/05, BC had a high school completion rate of 79% for all students and 48% for Aboriginal students. The completion rate is provided as a companion to the graduation rate. Completion rates are determined by tracking the number of students entering grade 8 who graduate within six years. Graduation rates as they are presented elsewhere in this report differ from this as they represent the number of graduates in any given year as a percentage of the population of eighteen year olds in that year.

British Columbia's high school completion rate varies considerably by school district, from 93% in Richmond to 59% in Vancouver Island West. The rest of the top five districts (and their respective completion rates) are: West Vancouver (91%), Coquitlam (88%), Southeast Kootenay and Kootenay-Columbia (both at 87%). The bottom five consists of Vancouver Island West (59%), Gold Trail and Nicola-Similkameen (both at 60%), Stikine (62%) and Nisga'a (63%).

2004/05 Dogwood Completion Rate Summary

Update not available in this year	All students	Girls	Boys	ESL	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal
British Columbia	79	83	76	84	48	31
Top Five Districts - All Students						
Richmond	93	96	90	95	43	50
West Vancouver	91	92	91	93	n/a	n/a
Coquitlam	88	90	85	90	63	25
Southeast Kootenay	87	90	84	100	52	35
Kootenay-Columbia	87	90	83	86	73	14
Bottom Five Districts - All Students						
Nisga'a	63	83	42	70	62	1
Stikine	62	59	65	n/a	52	10
Nicola-Similkameen	60	66	54	79	45	15
Gold Trail	60	74	46	41	48	12
Vancouver Island West	59	70	49	n/a	24	35

Source: BC Ministry of Education; n/a=suppressed due to small sample size

The Aboriginal completion rate generally trails that for the non-Aboriginal population with differences ranging from fifty-nine percentage points in New Westminster (77% vs. 18%) to one in the Nisga'a School District (63% vs. 62%). The Aboriginal population's completion in all of BC was thirty-one percentage points below that of the non-Aboriginal population (79% vs. 48%).

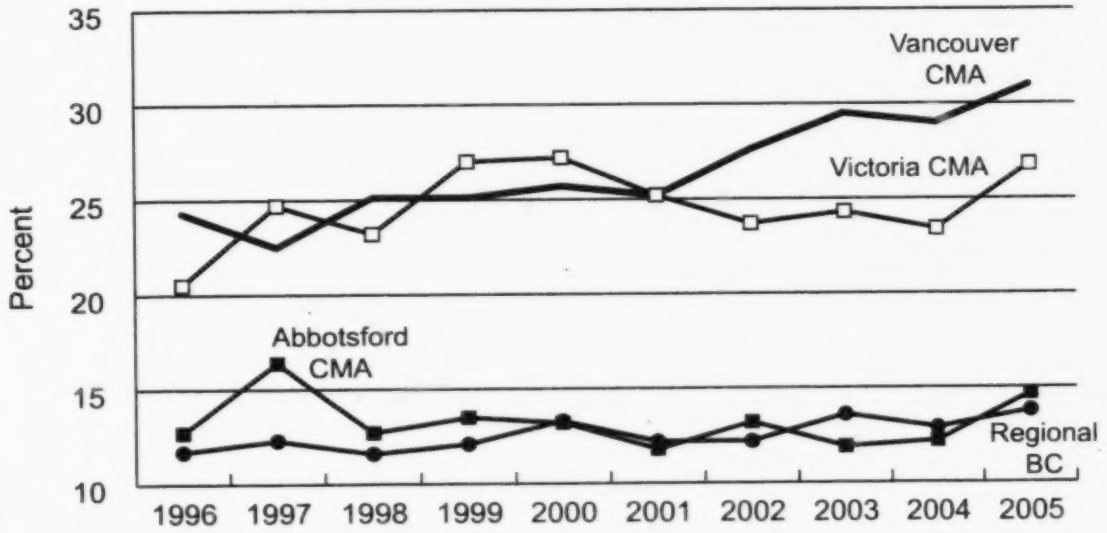
On average, English as a second language students (ESL) were more likely than the overall population to get their Dogwood. The ESL completion rate was five percentage points higher than for all students in 2004/05 (84% vs. 79%). The differences in the individual school districts are usually small but range from a twenty percentage point advantage in the Sunshine Coast (100% vs. 80%) to a 49 percentage point disadvantage in the Cowichan Valley (20% vs. 69%).

Notes: The Provincial Six-Year Dogwood Completion report for 2001/02 to 2005/06 is expected in the middle of December, which is not in time for our publication deadline.

Performance Indicator 8 BC Regional Comparison

University Completion

Percent of the Population (aged 25-54) with University Completion, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the percent of the population in British Columbia, aged 25 to 54, who have completed a university education. Excluded from the measure are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves.

Why it's Important

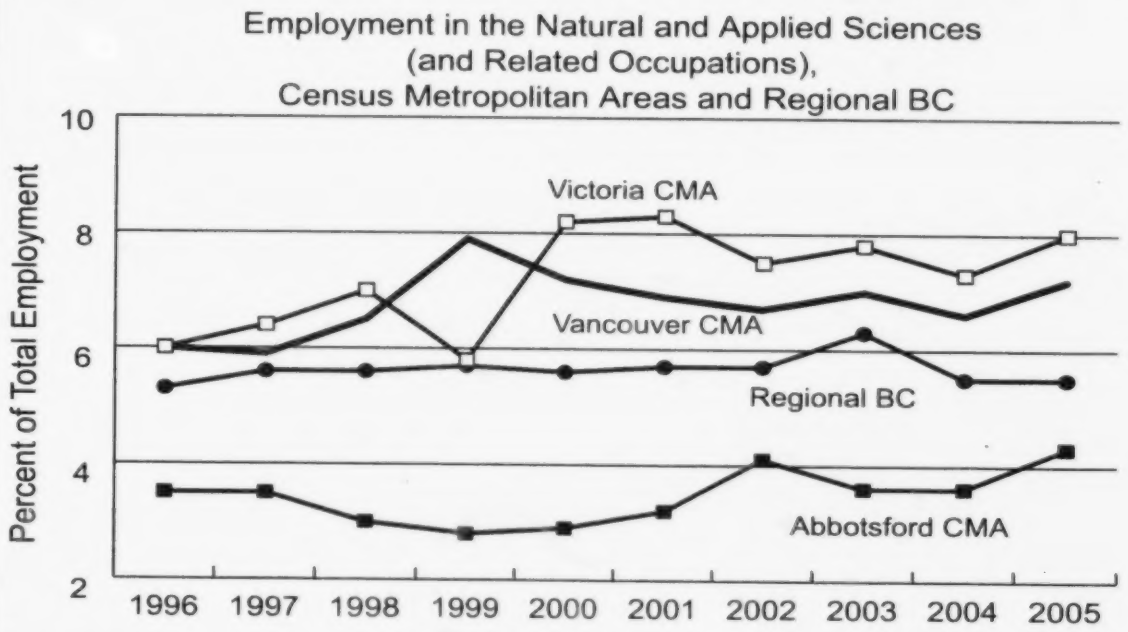
Though there are many different forms of post-secondary credentialing, university completion is an important indication of an area's efforts to build "top" academic, managerial and entrepreneurial skills necessary for the increasingly knowledge driven economy.

Analysis

The percentage of BC's population with a university education grew by 28.5% between 1996 and 2005. Over the same period, the Victoria CMA had growth of 30.4%, the Vancouver CMA had growth of 27.6%, Regional BC had growth of 17.9% and the Abbotsford CMA's proportion of the population (aged 25-64) with a university education grew by 15.5%.

The proportion of the population with a university education was similar in the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs over the period of analysis; the proportions in Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA were about half that of the Vancouver and Victoria CMAs. In 1996, the proportion in the Vancouver CMA was 24.3%, the proportion in the Victoria CMA was 20.5%, and was 11.7% in Regional BC and 12.7% in the Abbotsford CMA. In 2005, the Vancouver CMA's ratio was 31.0%, the Victoria CMA's was 26.8% while 13.8% of Regional BC's population and 14.7% of the Abbotsford CMA's population had a university education.

Natural and Applied Sciences and Related Occupations



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator measures the percent of an area's total employment that is comprised of scientists and engineers.

Why it's Important

The number of scientists and engineers relative to total employment is a key "proxy" for the creation of high skill jobs and the attraction and retention of people who possess the knowledge and skill sets essential to the process of innovation and the creation of high paid employment.

Analysis

The proportion of BC's workforce active in the natural and applied sciences has increased between 1996 and 2005. The proportion in Regional BC increased by 3.8% (0.2 percentage points) from 5.3% in 1996 to 5.5% in 2005. The proportion in the Vancouver CMA increased by 20.6% (1.2 percentage points) from 6.0% in 1996 to 7.2% in 2005. The proportion in the Abbotsford CMA increased by 23.8% (0.8 percentage points) from 3.5% in 1996 to 4.3% in 2005. The proportion in the Victoria CMA increased by 33.9% (2.0 percentage points) from 6.0% in 1996 to 8.0% in 2005.

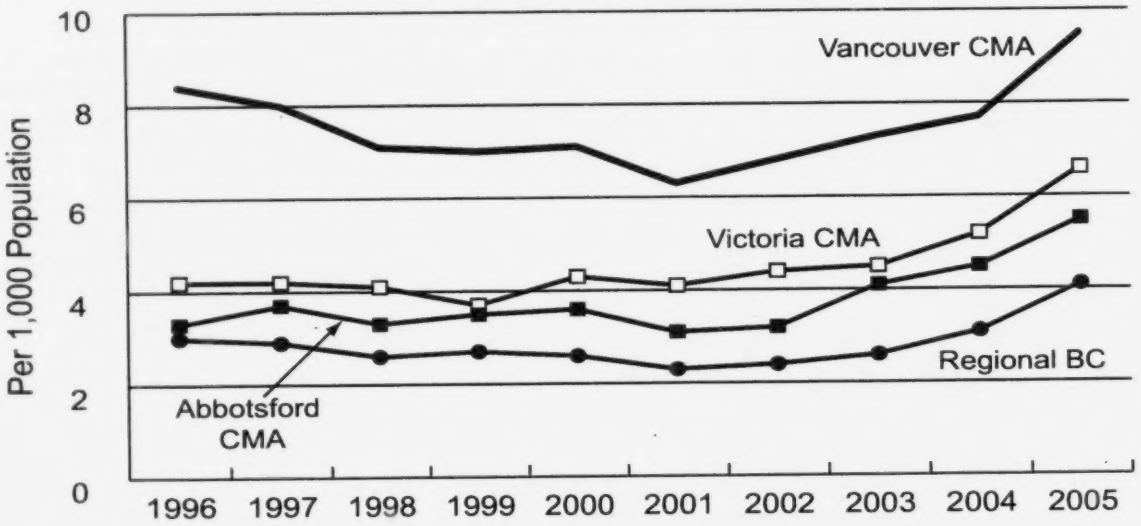
Between 1996 and 2005, the average annual growth rate in the proportion of total employment represented by those employed in the natural and applied sciences was: 2.5% in the Vancouver CMA, 4.8% in the Victoria CMA, 2.1% in the Abbotsford CMA, and 1.4% in Regional BC.

The Victoria CMA had the highest proportion of its workforce employed in natural and applied sciences in most of the years reviewed. On average, the proportion in the Victoria CMA was 6.7% higher than the proportion in the Vancouver CMA and 28.0% higher than the proportion in Regional BC.

Performance Indicator 10 BC Regional Comparison

Net New Business Formation

Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population, Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Finance and Superintendent of Bankruptcies

Description

This indicator measures net business formation by subtracting the number of business bankruptcies from the number of businesses incorporated in a given year. "Business incorporations" include firms incorporated under the Companies Act, administered by the BC Ministry of Finance. Incorporations can include holding companies as well as those actively carrying on as a business. "Business bankruptcies" are attributable to liabilities incurred resulting from commercial activities.

Why it's Important

The number of net new business formations is an important measure of economic and entrepreneurial activity.

Analysis (Net New Business Formations Per 1,000 Population)

There were more new business formations per capita in BC in 2005 than in any other year between 1990 and 2005; the previous maximum was in 1994. In 2005, there were 4.1 net business incorporations per 1,000 population in Regional BC, 5.5 in the Abbotsford CMA, 6.6 in the Victoria CMA and 9.5 in the Vancouver CMA. There were 13% more net business incorporations per 1,000 population in 2005 than in 1996 in the Vancouver CMA, 38% more in Regional BC, 58% more in the Victoria CMA and 66% more in the Abbotsford CMA.

From the 1994 peak, net new business formations per 1,000 population in BC fell, on average, by 5.5% a year through 2001. However, all regions have experienced positive growth in the relative number of net new formations in every year since 2002 and average annual growth for BC was 12% per year between 2002 and 2005.

Analysis (Total Net New Business Formations)

On average, between 1996 and 2005, the Vancouver CMA registered 70.5% of all net formations, the Victoria CMA registered 6.8%, the Abbotsford CMA had 2.7% and Regional BC registered the remaining 20.0%.

Note: *The Victoria CMA consists of the Capital Regional District including the Gulf Islands for this indicator.

Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education

Aboriginal communities in BC and across Canada experience an economic gap with the broader population, with higher levels of unemployment and lower incomes. Educational achievement and enrollment rates also lag those of non-Aboriginal students.

Generally speaking, available data on the Aboriginal population are nowhere near as detailed or as varied as data for the population as a whole. To address this gap, Statistics Canada began collecting Labour Market Survey data for Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in the four western provinces in 2004. The province of British Columbia sponsored an expansion of this survey to produce more reliable information.

Among the population aged 15-64 in 2004*, 71.5% of the non-Aboriginal population (ages 15-64) had a job. This compares to 58.0% of Aboriginal peoples to produce a 13.5 percentage point gap in the employment rate. The 2004 unemployment rate for the non-Aboriginal population was 6.6%. The rate for the Aboriginal population was more than 2½ times higher at 17.3%. In 2004, the average hourly wage rate for the non-Aboriginal population was $19.15 which was $2.13 higher than the rate for the Aboriginal population.

Employment & Income Trends**

While the long-standing socioeconomic disparity certainly still exists, it is narrowing. Data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses reveal improvements between the employment and education related performance of the Aboriginal population and that of BC's Non-Aboriginal population. While comparisons with the general population are illustrative, it is also important to look within Aboriginal communities, and recognize improvements made relative to past performance.

Employment and Participation Rates in BC, by population groups, ages 15+

	Employment Rate			Participation Rate		
	1996	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change	1996	2001	1996 – 2001 Percent Change
Aboriginal	46.2	48.7	5.4	61.9	62.9	1.6
Non-Aboriginal	60.5	60.0	(0.80)	66.5	65.3	(1.8)
Total	60.0	59.6	(0.7)	66.4	65.2	(1.8)
Gap: Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal	14.3	11.3	n/a	4.6	2.4	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

BC's Aboriginal population (ages 15 and older) reported a 62.9% labour force participation rate in 2001, with a 48.7% employment rate and a 22.5% unemployment rate. In contrast, Non-Aboriginal BC residents (ages 15 and older) reported a slightly higher participation rate (65.3%), a significantly higher employment rate (59.6%) and a significantly lower unemployment rate (8.5%). British Columbia's Aboriginal population posted a strong gain on the employment rate (5.4%) between 1996 and 2001 and also posted a gain in the participation rate. The Non-Aboriginal employment and participation rates fell by 0.8% and 1.8%, respectively. The employment

Notes: *2004 refers to the 12 month average from April 2004 to March 2005. **The employment and income data in this section are from a different source than those referenced in the section above and cannot be compared directly because of differences in the target population. Data on the Aboriginal population are limited and not updated often. Most of the data in this analysis are from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Censuses. Contrary to our usual practice of archiving material that can not be updated fully, this analysis remains from previous Reports due to the importance of the subject.

Continued on following page.

Aboriginal Employment, Income and Education (continued)

rate gap between Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals fell from 14.3 percentage points (31.0%) in 1996 to 11.3 percentage points (23.2%) in 2001. The participation rate gap fell from 4.6 to 2.4 percentage points (7.5% to 3.9%).

The median income of all British Columbians 15 years of age and over was $22,095, while the province's Aboriginal population registered a median income of $13,242. This significantly lower median income among the Aboriginal community is on average 20.6% derived from government transfers, as compared to 11.8% for the general population.

A similar gap is evident when we consider employment income only. In 1995, on average, the Aboriginal population earned 64.7% as much as the Non-Aboriginal population. This gap narrowed to 67.4% in 2000 on the strength of a 9.9% growth in real earned income among the Aboriginal population and growth of 5.5% in real earned income in the Non-Aboriginal population.

Average Employment Earnings in BC, $2000

	1995 ($2000)	2000 ($2000)	1995 - 2000 Change, $2000 Dollars	1995 - 2000 Percent Change
Average Employment Income				
Aboriginal	19,560	21,496	1,936	9.9
Non-Aboriginal	30,240	31,910	1,670	5.5
Total	29,934	31,552	1,618	5.4
Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal, $	10,680	10,414	n/a	n/a
Aboriginal as a % of Non-Aboriginal	64.7	67.4	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

A related factor is the type of work performed by the Aboriginal population. In 2004, non-Aboriginals were almost twice as likely to be working in management and professional occupations than Aboriginals (25.3% vs. 13.3% for a gap of 12.0 percentage points). Thirty-five percent of Aboriginals were in the semi-professional and technical occupations versus 32.3% for non-Aboriginals and over half of all employed Aboriginals were in intermediate and lesser skilled occupations (51.6% vs. 42.3% for the non-Aboriginal population). In 2004, Aboriginal peoples were more than twice as likely as non-Aboriginal peoples to work in the forest sector.

Education

The Aboriginal population is young relative to BC's overall population. Ensuring that this growing number of Aboriginal youth are adequately educated and trained will be a vital step in reducing the community's current employment and income gap relative to the Non-Aboriginal population. Completion rates have been on the increase in BC in recent years for Aboriginals as well as Non-Aboriginals. Between 1999/00 and 2004/05, the Aboriginal population saw an 9 percentage point increase in its' completion rate while the Non-Aboriginal rate improved by 4 percentage points, narrowing the completion rate gap from 39 in 1999/00 to 34 in 2004/05.

Completion Rates in BC, by population groups

	1999/00	2001/02	2004/05	1999/00 - 2004/05 Change
Aboriginal	39	42	48	9
Non-Aboriginal	78	80	82	4
Total	75	77	79	4
Non-Aboriginal less Aboriginal	39	38	34	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada

IV. Environment, Health and Society

	Regional Performance Indicators
11.	Air Quality
12.	Cancer Mortality
13.	Life Expectancy at Birth
14.	Low Birth Weight
15.	Personal and Property Crime
16.	Low Income Incidence
17.	Employment Insurance
18.	Income Assistance

Comparison of Census Metropolitan Areas and Regional BC

Environment, Health and Society

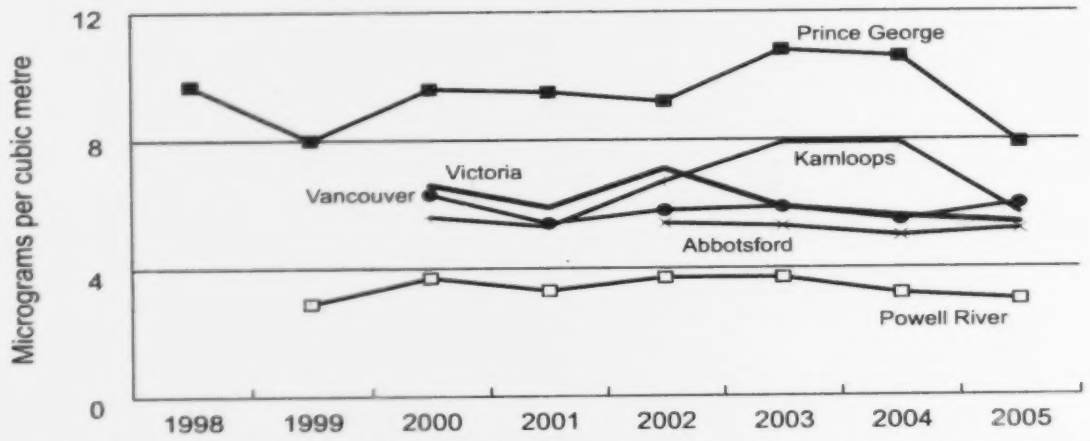
	Most Recent Data	Metric Description	Van. CMA	Vic. CMA	Abb. CMA	RBC	RBC vs. Urban
11. Air Quality	2005	Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Conc.	6.0	5.4	5.2	6.1	-
12. Cancer Mortality	2005	Mort. Rate per 1,000	4.3	5.4	5.7	5.3	-
13. Life Expectancy at Birth	2005	Years	81.8	81.2	80.6	79.8	-
14. Low Birth Weight Rate	2005	percent of Live Births	6.0	5.5	5.1	5.0	+
15. Personal and Property Crime	2005	Incidents per 100 Pop.	7.6	6.5	8.4	7.4	ns
16. Social Condition	2004	% of Families	20.5	18.4	N/A	15.2	+
17. Employment Insurance	2005	% of Pop. (15-64)	2.5	2.3	3.8	3.7	-
18. Income Assistance	2005	% of Pop. (0-64)	1.2	1.3	1.6	2.1	-

Note: ns=no significant difference

Performance Indicator 11 BC Regional Comparison

Air Quality

Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$ - µg/m³), Annual Mean Concentration



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Description

Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulate matter in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other sources emit fine particulates. Until recently air quality monitors focussed on particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but because of research showing that particulates 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk, monitors in Canada have switched over to the $PM_{2.5}$ standard. The best available data for 1994 through 2000 is PM_{10} while the best data for 2001 and subsequent years is $PM_{2.5}$.

Why it's Important

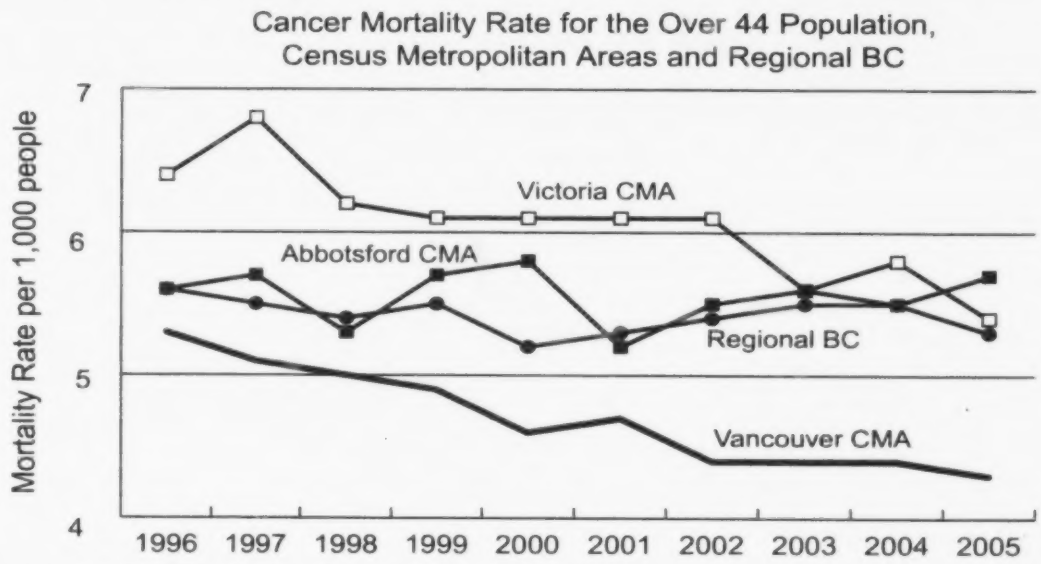
Air quality has direct effects on human health. Fine particulates may affect breathing, aggravate respiratory and cardiovascular disease, alter the body's defense systems and damage lung tissue. Both premature mortality and emergency hospital visits may increase during times of high concentrations of fine particulates.

Analysis ($PM_{2.5}$)

Powell River had the lowest annual average concentration of particulates ($PM_{2.5}$) over the 2001 through 2005 period at 3.4 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³). Nanaimo was the next lowest at 4.5 µg/m³, followed by Chilliwack at 4.8 µg/m³ and Abbotsford at 5.2 µg/m³. Vancouver and Victoria came in at 5.7 µg/m³ and 6.0 µg/m³, respectively and Prince George had the highest annual average concentration of particulate matter at 9.6 µg/m³.

Note: The presentation of this indicator differs from previous years in that little reference is made to the PM_{10} data and the $PM_{2.5}$ discussion is now based on eleven locations, up from five in the 2005 Report. Although only six locations are presented in the figure the full set of data is included in the appendix.

Cancer Mortality



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cells form in human organs or tissue and grow to form a tumour. Two-thirds of all cancers are caused by a person's lifestyle, such as diet, physical activity, drinking and smoking habits. This indicator is a proxy for an area's propensity to make healthy lifestyle choices. Fully 95% of cancer deaths occur after the age of 45 years. The indicator is the total number of cancer deaths per 1,000 people for those aged 45 years and older.

Why it's Important

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in Canada. The National Cancer Institute of Canada estimates that there will be as many as 153,100 new cases of cancer and 70,400 cancer deaths in 2006. Approximately 44% of men and 38% of women will develop cancer. Fully 29% of men and 24% of women will die of cancer.*

In 2006, the most frequently diagnosed cancers will continue to be breast cancer for women and prostate cancer for men. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both women and men and smoking is responsible for 28% of the potential years of life lost (PYLL) due to cancer. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer.*

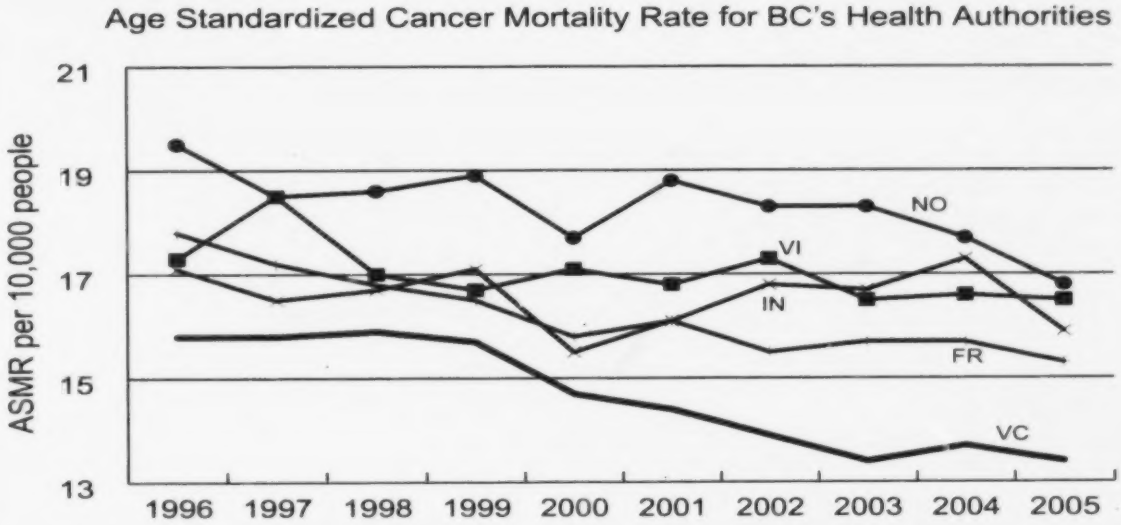
Analysis

Cancer mortality rates fell in the Vancouver CMA by 19.2% between 1996 and 2005, from 5.4 to 4.3 deaths per 1,000 people aged 45 years and older. Rates fell by 14.9% in the Victoria CMA and by 5.3% in Regional BC but increased by 2.2% in the Abbotsford CMA over this time period. Of the ten year-over-year changes analysed the Vancouver CMA's rate increased once, the rate in the Victoria CMA and in Regional BC increased six times, and the cancer mortality rate in the Abbotsford CMA increased seven times.

Note: *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2006, National Cancer Institute of Canada, April 2006.

Performance Indicator 12 Supplemental Information: By Health Authority

Cancer Mortality



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Age Standardized Cancer Mortality by Health Authority

Health Authority	Abbr.	2005 Rank	1996 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1996 - 2005 Average	1996 - 2005 Minimum	1996 - 2005 Maximum
Interior	IN	3	16.6	3	15.5	17.3
Fraser	FR	2	16.2	2	15.3	17.8
Vancouver Coastal	VC	1	14.7	1	13.4	15.9
Vancouver Island	VI	4	17.0	4	16.5	18.5
Northern	NO	5	18.3	5	16.8	19.5
British Columbia			16.2		15.2	17.2

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

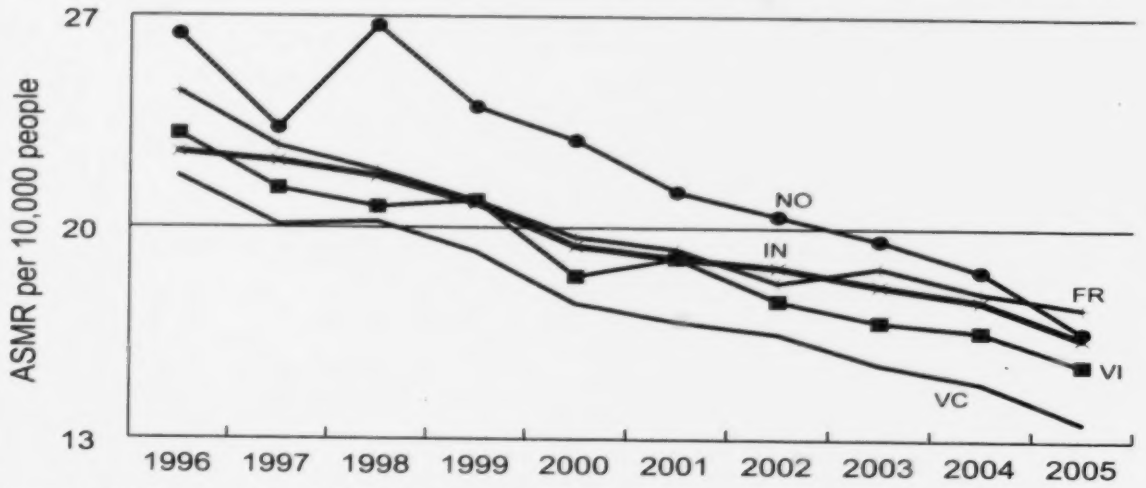
Over the period 1996 to 2005, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority had the lowest cancer mortality rate among the Health Authorities with a rate of 14.7 deaths per 10,000 population. The Northern Health Authority reported the highest cancer mortality rate for 2005 (16.8 deaths per 10,000 population) and had the highest average cancer mortality rate for 1996 through 2005 at 18.3 deaths per 10,000 population.

The cancer mortality rate in 2005 was lower than in 1996 in every region. The largest decrease (15.4%) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority while the smallest decrease (4.6%) was in the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Overall, British Columbia's cancer mortality rate was 11.2% lower in 2005 than in 1996.

Performance Indicator 12 Supplemental Information: By Health Authority

Mortality from Cardiovascular Disease

Age Standardized Cancer Mortality Rate for BC's Health Authorities



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

The general term cardiovascular disease includes all diseases of the circulatory system including acute myocardial infarction, ischemic heart disease, valvular heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, arrhythmias, high blood pressure and stroke. Cardiovascular disease is the cause of death of over one-third of Canadians.

Why it's Important

Heart disease has a major impact on an individual's quality of life, including chronic pain or discomfort, activity restriction, disability, and unemployment.

Cardiovascular Disease Mortality by Health Authority

Health Authority	Abbr.	2005 Rank	1996 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1996 - 2005 Average	1996 - 2005 Minimum	1996 - 2005 Maximum
Interior	IN	3	19.6	3	16.4	22.5
Fraser	FR	5	20.1	4	17.4	24.5
Vancouver Coastal	VC	1	17.6	1	13.6	21.7
Vancouver Island	VI	2	19.0	2	15.5	23.1
Northern	NO	4	22.0	5	16.6	26.7
British Columbia			19.2		15.8	23.2

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

The lowest 2005 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (13.6 deaths per 10,000 population) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority; the highest (17.4) was in the Fraser Health Authority.

Mortality rates from cardiovascular disease were significantly lower in 2005 than in 1996 all across BC. The smallest 1996 to 2005 decrease (27.0%) in mortality was in the Interior Health Authority while the largest decrease (37.5%) was in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

Performance Indicator 13 — BC Regional Comparison

Life Expectancy at Birth

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Life expectancy at birth is the average number of years that a child is expected to live based on the mortality rates prevailing at the child's birth. Factors affecting life expectancy include access to health care, diet, environment, wealth and economic development.

Why it's Important

This is a key indicator measuring the overall health of citizens in a jurisdiction. An increasing life expectancy at birth indicates that the overall health status of the population is improving while a decreasing life expectancy indicates a general deterioration in a population's health status.

Analysis

Life expectancy at birth in the Vancouver CMA increased from 79.1 years in 1996 to 81.8 years in 2005, a 3.4% improvement. In the Victoria CMA, life expectancy at birth increased from 79.6 years in 1996 to 81.2 years in 2005, a 2.0% improvement, while in the Abbotsford CMA it increased from 79.3 years in 1995 to 80.6 years in 2005, a 1.7% improvement. In Regional BC life expectancy at birth increased from 78.2 years in 1996 to 79.8 years in 2005, a 2.0% improvement. Life expectancy at birth in BC overall increased from 78.8 years in 1996 to 80.9 years in 2005, a 2.7% improvement.

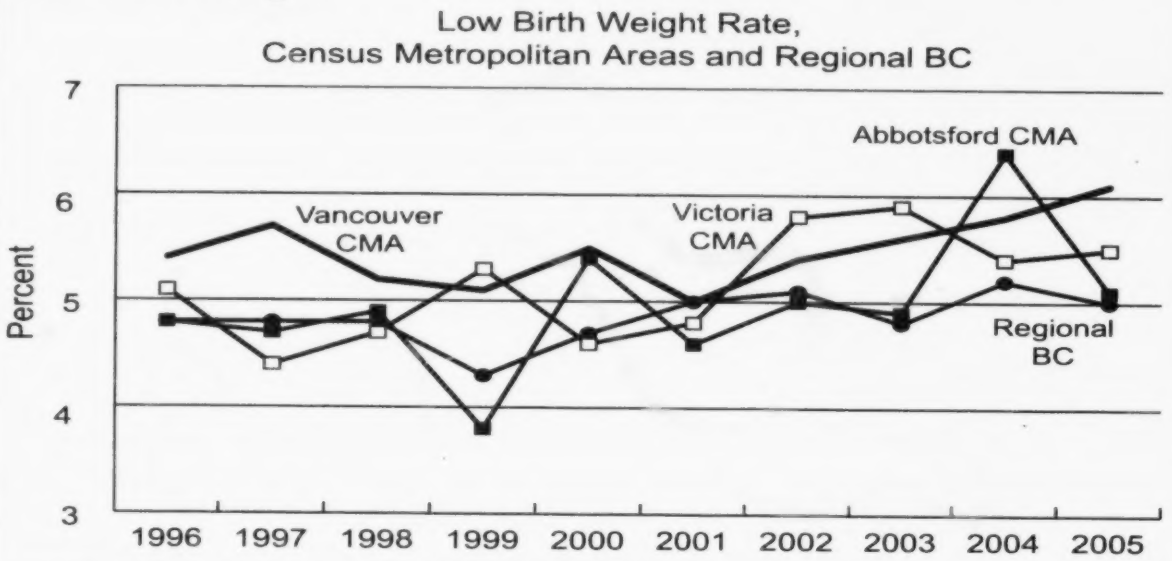
On average, life expectancy at birth increased by 3½ months per year in the Vancouver CMA between 1996 and 2005. Similarly, it increased on average, by 2 months per year in the Victoria CMA and Regional BC, by 1½ months per year in the Abbotsford CMA, and by 2½ months a year in BC as a whole.

Year-to-year decreases in life expectancy at birth are rare. Of the changes in the 1996 through 2005 period, there were no decreases in the Vancouver CMA, Regional BC and in BC as a whole while there were three in the Abbotsford CMA and two in the Victoria CMA. The largest of these decreases was a four week decline in Abbotsford between 1995 and 1996.

Note: BC regional life expectancy data provided by the BC Vital Statistics Agency is more current than provincial or national data provided by Statistics Canada.

Performance Indicator 14 BC Regional Comparison

Low Birth Weight



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Description

Newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams are considered to be low birth weight infants. This indicator presents the ratio of low weight births (birth weight less than 2,500 grams) to total live births. Factors that contribute to low birth weight are socio-economic status, social support, stress and personal habits. This indicator serves as a proxy for overall health and social condition.

Why it's Important

Low birth weight newborns have a substantially higher rate of post-birth illness and death. Long-term health problems, increased hospitalization rates and disabilities are also associated with low birth weight.

Analysis

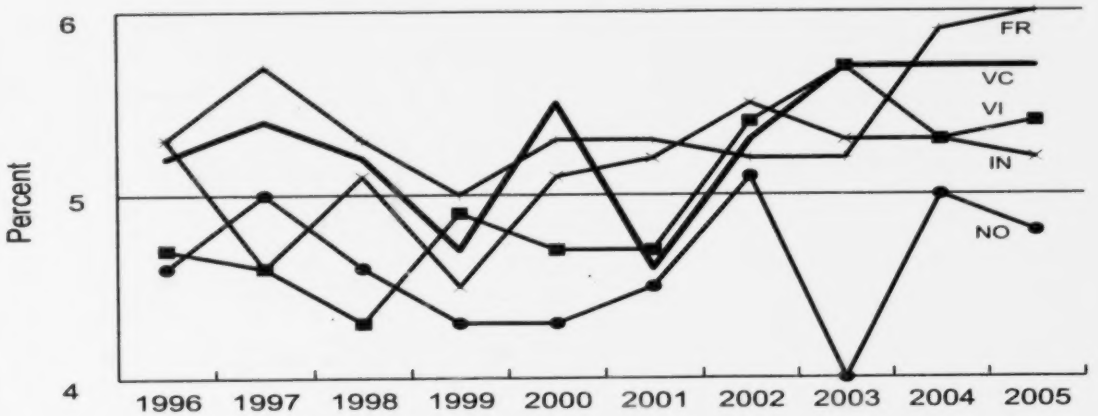
In 2005, 6.0% of live births in the Vancouver CMA had a birth weight below 2,500 grams (the low weight threshold). The ratio was 5.5% in the Victoria CMA, 5.1% in the Abbotsford CMA and 5.0% of live births in Regional BC had low birth weight.

The low birth weight ratio has been fairly volatile in all four regions with the difference from minimum to maximum values ranging from 20.7% in Regional BC to 69.9% in the Abbotsford CMA. That said, the average values for the four regions for the period 1996 through 2005 are quite close. The smallest difference being 2.1% between Regional BC and the Abbotsford CMA and the largest difference being 12.7% between Regional BC and the Vancouver CMA.

Performance Indicator 14 Supplemental Information: By Health Authority

Low Birth Weight Rate

Low Birth Weight Rate for BC's Health Authorities



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency.

Low Weight Births by Health Authority, percent

Health Authority	Abbr.	2005 Rank	1996 - 2005 Average	Rank for 1996 - 2005 Average	1996 - 2005 Minimum	1996 - 2005 Maximum
Interior	IN	2	5.1	3	4.5	5.5
Fraser	FR	5	5.4	5	5.0	6.0
Vancouver Coastal	VC	4	5.3	4	4.6	5.7
Vancouver Island	VI	3	5.0	2	4.3	5.7
Northern	NO	1	4.6	1	4.0	5.1
British Columbia			5.2		4.8	5.6

Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.

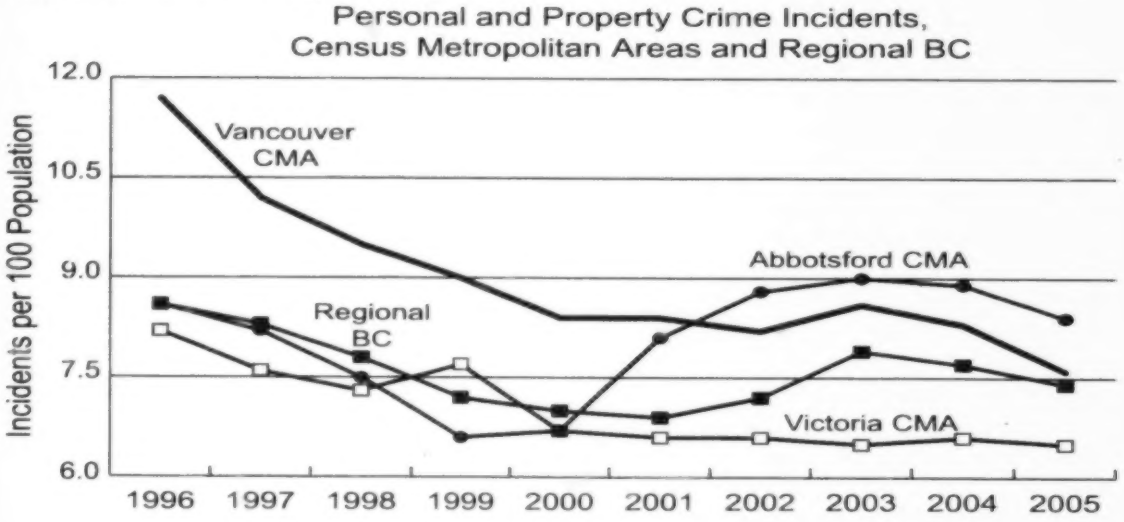
The Fraser Health Authority had the highest 2005 rate of low weight births (6.0%) and the highest rate of low weight births, on average between 1996 and 2005, at 5.4%.

The Northern Health Authority had the lowest rate of low weight births in 2005 (4.8%) and the lowest 1996 through 2005 average rate (4.6%).

The 2005 rate of low weight births was above the 1996 rate in four of the five regional Health Authorities. However, this indicator is fairly volatile from year to year and different ten-year comparisons using different start and end dates can yield either increases or decreases for several of the Health Authorities. In addition, British Columbia performs well on this indicator whether compared to other provinces, US states or OECD nations.

Performance Indicator 15 — BC Regional Comparison

Personal and Property Crime



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Public Security and Solicitor General.

Description

Personal and property crime rates are the number of reported incidents, expressed as a rate per 100 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods.

Why it's Important

The crime rate is both a reflection of community safety and security and an indicator of other social and economic problems. It can reflect lack of opportunities, inadequate education or social dysfunction. Crime is very costly to society, from both individual and community perspectives.

Analysis

In 2005, the Abbotsford CMA experienced 8.3 crime incidents for every 100 residents. This was higher than the Vancouver CMA which had 7.6 crimes per 100 residents, Regional BC with 7.4 incidents per 100 residents or the Victoria CMA with 6.5 incidents per 100 residents. On average, between 1996 and 2005, crime rates in the Vancouver CMA were 28.0% higher than in the Victoria CMA, 18.4% higher than in Regional BC and 11.2% higher than in the Abbotsford CMA.

Crime rates dropped in every year between 1996 and 2001 as well as in 2004 and 2005, but increased in 2002 and 2003 in Regional BC. Crime rates fell in every year between 1996 and 2001 as well as in 2003 and 2005 in the Victoria CMA but increased in 2002 and 2004. In general, they also dropped in the Vancouver CMA over this time period although they increased in 1996, were flat in 2001 and increased in 2003. Overall, between 1996 and 2005, crime rates fell by 35.3% in the Vancouver CMA, by 20.9% in the Victoria CMA by 14.3% in Regional BC and by 2.9% in the Abbotsford CMA.

Performance Indicator 15 Supplemental Information: Crime Rate

Crime Rate by Municipality

Smithers saw the largest increase in its crime rate with 63.1% increase from 185 incidents in 1996 per 1,000 population to 301 in 2005. The next three largest 1996-2005 increases were in Summerland (31.5%), Prince Rupert (29.8%) and Squamish (27.2%) and were all in a cluster at roughly half the increase in Smithers. Kamloops, at 23.1%, also had a relatively large increase. Twenty-two of the sixty-four municipalities with full data had higher crime rates in 2005 than in 1996.

In contrast, Sidney saw its crime rate drop by 49.0% from 106 incidents per 1,000 population in 1996 to 54 in 2005. Large decreases were also seen in Vancouver (40.5%), Kitimat (39.2%), North Saanich (31.7%) and Qualicum Beach (30.8%). Forty-two of the sixty-four municipalities with full data had lower crime rates in 2005 than in 1996.

Crime Rates per 1,000 population

	1996	2000	2005	2004 - 2005 Percent Change (70 municipalities)	1996 - 2005 Percent Change (of 64 with full data)
Largest Increases					
Smithers	185	214	301	8.7	63.1
Summerland	52	49	68	(13.3)	31.5
Prince Rupert	157	197	204	1.1	29.8
Squamish	160	126	204	12.1	27.2
Kamloops	137	139	168	(0.7)	23.1
Largest Decreases					
Sidney	106	65	54	(7.3)	(49.0)
Vancouver	197	138	117	(11.1)	(40.5)
Kitimat	114	83	70	(21.9)	(39.2)
North Saanich	50	39	34	(3.0)	(31.7)
Qualicum Beach	116	76	81	(7.5)	(30.8)

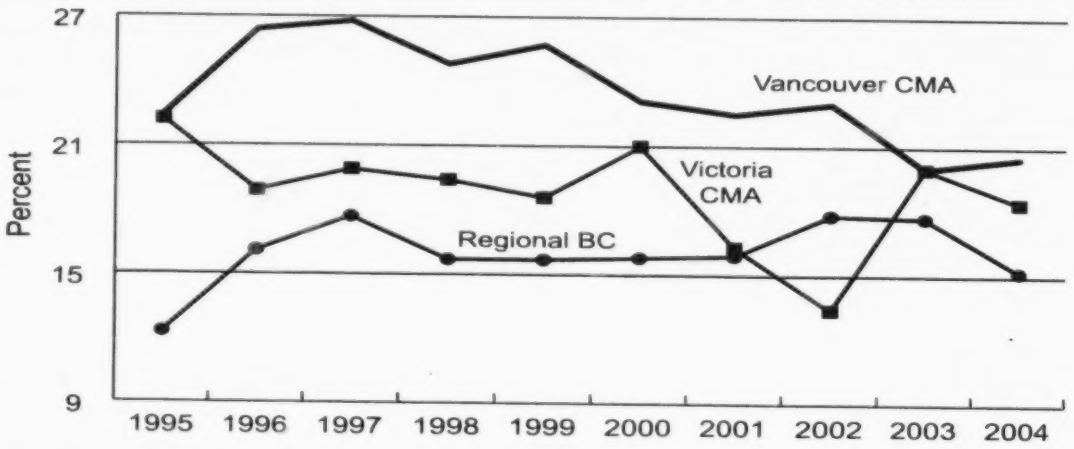
Sources: BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Police and Crime Summary Statistics 1995-2004; Municipal Crime Rate Report (July 2006) Note: Excluded from "1996-2005 Percent Change": Hope, Ladysmith, Lake Country, Sooke, Spallumcheen and Whistler.

Although these data can be used to rank municipalities based on their overall crime rate, they are intended to show how rates change over time within a given municipality rather than how the rate in one municipality compares to the rate in another. Comparisons between municipalities are difficult to interpret because the resident population of the municipality may not reflect the number of people who frequent it. The examples given by the Police Services Division are a municipality that is a core city and serves as the business and entertainment district for people from surrounding municipalities and tourist destinations which have large part-time populations. While the crimes do indeed occur within the boundaries of the relevant municipality, assigning those crimes to an appropriate population is difficult.

Performance Indicator 16 BC Regional Comparison

Low Income Incidence

Families and Unattached Individuals with Income Below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Off for Vancouver, Victoria and Regional BC



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description*

This measure is the ratio of families and unattached individuals with low incomes (after-tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals.

Why it's Important

There are a number of negative outcomes for families experiencing low incomes. People with low income may experience more physical and mental health problems, rely more on charity, attain lower levels of education, or have higher secondary school drop out rates.

Analysis

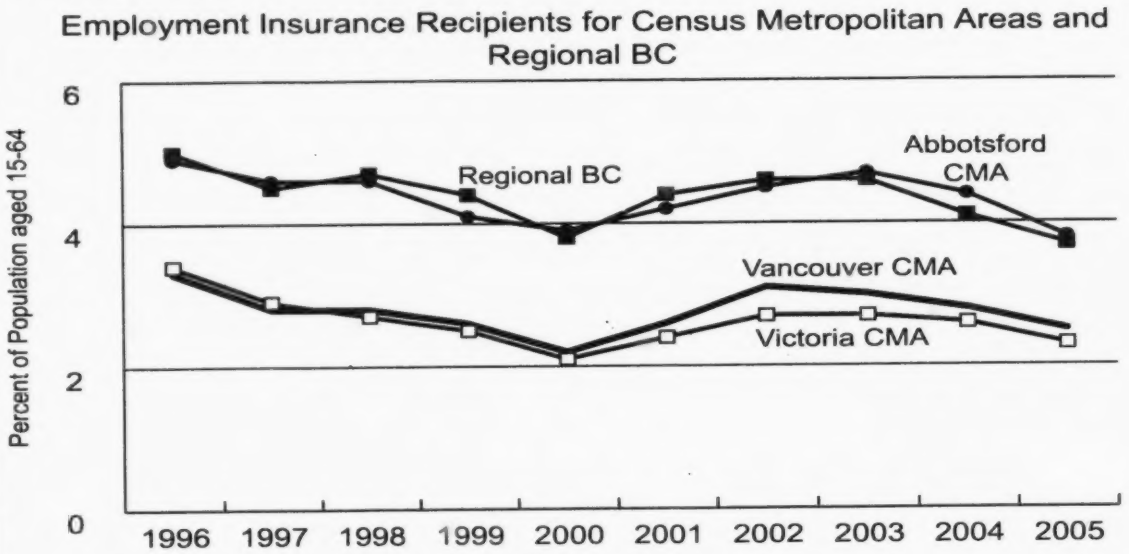
The Vancouver CMA had the highest low income incidence in 2004 with a rate of 20.5%. This compares to the Victoria CMA at 18.4% and Regional BC at 15.2%. The low income ratio was highest in the Vancouver CMA for most years reviewed.

In 2004, the percentage of Vancouver families and unattached individuals below the after-tax Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) was 8.5% (1.9 percentage points) lower than it was in 1995. On a relative basis, there were 23.2% (2.9 percentage points) more people below LICO in Regional BC in 2004 than in 1995. The 2004 ratio in the Victoria CMA was 17.1% (3.8 percentage points) lower than in 1995 while the ratio for all of BC was 1.6% (0.3 percentage points) lower in 2004 than in 1995.

In 2004, the low income ratio in the Vancouver CMA was 12.8% (3.0 percentage points) lower than the CMA's 10 year average. The ratio in the Victoria CMA was 2.2% (0.4 percentage points) lower than its average and Regional BC's ratio was lower by 4.9% (0.8 percentage points).

Note: *For further discussion of the LICO, please see the Supplemental Information boxes in Volume I of the 2005 Benchmarking Report.

Employment Insurance Recipients



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator tracks the number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries as a percent of the population aged 15-64. Employment Insurance (EI) helps unemployed Canadians between jobs by providing temporary financial assistance while they look for work, upgrade their skills, are pregnant, care for a newborn (or adopted child), or are sick.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the labour force not able to find employment is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction. When an economy is growing strongly, new jobs are created and, unless the labour force grows enough to offset the growth in jobs, the unemployment rate will fall and there should be fewer people collecting Employment Insurance benefits.

Analysis

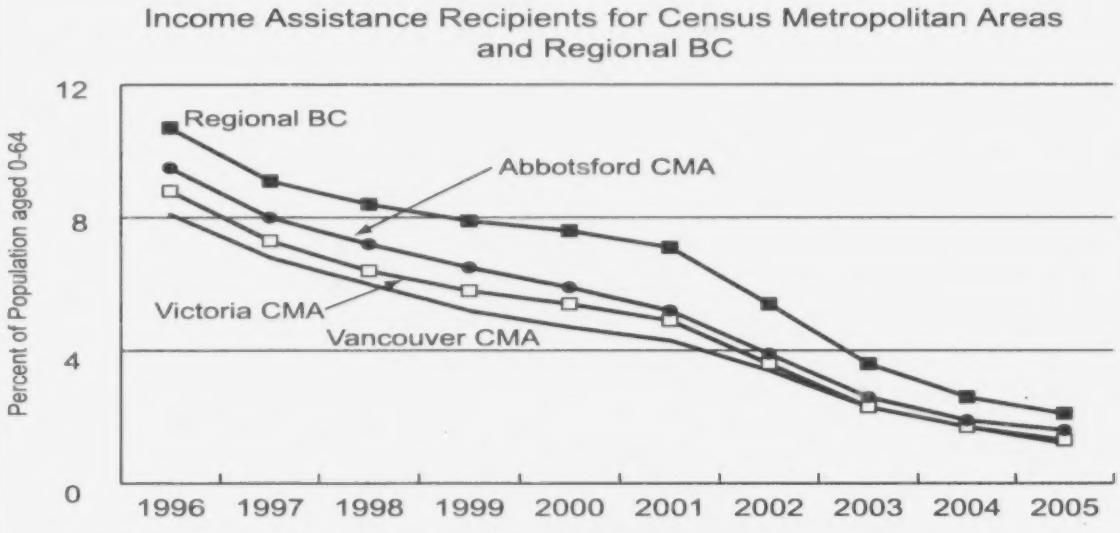
The proportion of the population (aged 19-64) receiving EI benefits is higher in the Abbotsford CMA and Regional BC than in the Vancouver or Victoria CMAs. On average, between 1996 and 2005, the ratio in Regional BC was 58.0% higher than in the Vancouver CMA. The average ratio in the Abbotsford CMA was 58.3% higher.

Over the period of analysis, the number of EI beneficiaries in BC bottomed out at 72,841 in 2000. In 2000 there were: 3,560 EI beneficiaries in the Abbotsford CMA (3.9% of the population aged 19-64), 4,250 beneficiaries in the Victoria CMA (2.1% of the population aged 15-64), 30,082 beneficiaries in the Vancouver CMA (2.2% of the population aged 15-64), and 34,949 in Regional BC (3.8% of the population aged 15-64).

All regions in British Columbia had increases in the proportion of population in receipt of EI benefits in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, Vancouver and Regional BC had decreases in the proportion and Victoria and Abbotsford had increases. All regions had decreases in 2004 and 2005.

Performance Indicator 18 BC Regional Comparison

Income Assistance Recipients



Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance; Statistics Canada.

Description

This indicator tracks the number of Income Assistance beneficiaries as a percent of the population aged 0-64. The Income Assistance (IA) program in BC provides essential income support, employment and training support, and other benefits to a wide range of people who need temporary assistance and meet eligibility requirements under the BC Benefits (Income Assistance) Act. The program is strictly limited to those in need. Eligibility is determined by stringent income and asset testing.

Why it's Important

The proportion of the population collecting income assistance benefits (commonly referred to as welfare) is an important indicator of the economic health of a jurisdiction and may also indicate problems in the incentive structure of the income assistance programs available within a jurisdiction.

Analysis

A general pattern of large increases in the income assistance recipients-to-population ratio in the early 1990s followed by even larger decreases in the ratio in the mid-to-late 1990s was seen all across the country. In BC, the ratio peaked at 0.4% in 1995 and has since fallen by 85.0% to 1.6% in 2005.

The proportion of the population (aged 0-64) collecting Income Assistance (IA) benefits has followed similar patterns in the Vancouver, Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs and in Regional BC. The proportion peaked in 1995 at 9.3% in the Vancouver CMA, 9.8% in the Victoria CMA, 10.8% in the Abbotsford CMA and 11.9% in Regional BC. Since 1995, the number of beneficiaries as a percent of the population (aged 0-64) has fallen by 86.5% in the Victoria CMA, 85.4% in the Abbotsford CMA, 86.8% in the Vancouver CMA and 82.4% in Regional BC. The proportion of the population collecting income assistance has consistently been higher in Regional BC than in the Vancouver, Victoria or Abbotsford CMAs although the differences are not large.

Note: The Ministry of Human Resources tracks the percent of BC population aged 19-64 receiving temporary assistance with employment-related obligations. These data are available by health authority and will be considered for inclusion when a long enough time series is available.

Status Indian* Population and Health

British Columbia's Status Indian population is growing more rapidly than the overall population. Similar to employment and education indicators of economic well-being, the Status Indian population is generally showing improvement in key health outcome indicators relative to both past performance and to the BC population as a whole. However, despite such improvements, a gap between BC's Status Indian and the general population persists on key health outcome indicators such as life expectancy at birth and low birth weight.

As of 2002, BC's Status Indian population numbered 151,783 individuals, or 3.7% of the total BC population. While the province's Non-Status Indian population grew by 6.4% between 1996 and 2002, the Status Indian population grew by 16.0%, more than twice the rate of growth. More rapid population growth among the province's Aboriginal community has been reflected in an age distribution that varies markedly from that of BC's overall population. The median age of British Columbia's total population is 38.4 years, 81.9% of the population is aged 15 and over, while 13.6% is 65 or over. In contrast, the median age of the Aboriginal population is 26.8 years with 69.4% of the population being 15 years of age or over, and 4.3% being age 65 and over.

Population by Group in BC

	1992	1996	1992 - 1996 Percent Change	2002	1996 - 2002 Percent Change	1992 - 2002 Percent Change
Status Indian	110,005	130,806	18.9	151,783	16.0	38.0
Non-Aboriginal	3,360,302	3,751,237	11.6	3,989,489	6.4	18.7
Total	3,470,307	3,882,043	11.9	4,141,272	6.7	19.3

Source: BC Vital Statistics

Life Expectancy at Birth

While there are a variety of indicators available that provide some measure of the overall health of a population, life expectancy at birth is one of the most widely used. Increases in a child's probable life span, as judged at the time of birth based on current mortality rates, provide an indication of positive improvements in a society's general health.

Currently, the average child born in BC can expect to live 80.8 years. This life span is slightly higher than the Canadian average and ranks above any other Canadian province or territory. However, a child born in the province's Status Indian community can expect an average life span of 77.2 years – three and a half years less than the life expectancy for the total BC population.

While the Status Indian community's life expectancy lags that of BC's general population it has made marked improvement in the past decade – with today's rates a full 15.9% higher than just twelve years ago, when the average child born in the Status Indian community was expected to live 66.7 years. The rate of change in this

Notes: *"Status Indian" is used in this section as the life expectancy and low birth weight data available from BC's Vital Statistics office use this classification. The Vital Statistics data are usually updated every year but BC Vital Statistics has not been able to complete their analysis this year. "Status Indian" is a subgroup of the more inclusive "Aboriginal Identity" classification used for the quintennial national censuses. Data on the Aboriginal population is limited and not updated very often. Most of the data in this analysis are from the 1991, 1996 and 2001 Canadian Censuses. Contrary to our usual practice of archiving material that can not be updated fully, this analysis remains due to the importance of the subject.

Status Indian Population and Health (continued)

Life Expectancy at Birth in BC, in years, by population groups

	1992*	1996*	1992* - 1996* Percent Change	2000*	2002*	2000* - 2002* Percent Change	1991* - 2002* Percent Change
Status Indians	66.7	71.6	7.4	74.2	77.2	4.0	15.9
Total	78.4	79.0	0.8	80.4	80.8	0.5	3.1
Gap: Total less Status Indians	11.7	7.4	n/a	6.2	3.6	n/a	n/a

Sources: BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics; **Notes:** 1992*=1991-93, 1996*=1995-97, 2000*=1999-01, 2002*=2001-03

measure has slowed as life expectancy nears that of the general population, but it is still much higher than the improvements being seen by the rest of the BC population.

Low Birth Weight

The Status Indian* community reported a rate of 60.2 low weight births per 1,000 live births in 2003. This is 7.4% higher than the rate for the general population, 52.8 low weight births per 1,000 live births. Year to year data variations mean that in some years rates of low weight newborns appear similar for both populations. However, an average of low birth weight rates over the period 1991 through 2003 yields an average rate of 55.9 for the Status Indian population versus 50.4 for the general population, a difference of 10.9%.

Similar to the total population, the rate for Status Indian low weight births varies by Health Authority. Northern Health Authority Status Indians reported a 49.0 low weight birth rate while Status Indians in the Fraser Health Authority reported a rate of 75.5 low weight births per 1,000 live births.

The low birth weight rate is volatile, with rates for the Status Indian population ranging from a low of 52.3 in 1998 and 2000 to a high of 60.2 in 2003 over the 1991 to 2003 time period. The 2003 rate is well above the 1991 to 2003 average but will likely drop soon. The rate for British Columbia as a whole has also increased above its long-term average in recent years.

Low Birth Weight Rate in BC, by population groups

	1991	1996	2001	2003	2001 - 2003 Average	1991 - 2003 Minimum	1991 - 2003 Maximum
Status Indians	57.9	56.3	54.8	60.2	55.9	52.3	60.2
Total	48.2	51.1	49.5	52.8	50.4	47.5	52.8
Gap: Status Indians less Total	9.7	5.2	5.3	7.4	5.5	4.8	7.4

Sources: BC Vital Statistics

Note: *"Status Indian" is used in this section as the life expectancy and low birth weight data available from BC's Vital Statistics office use this classification. "Status Indian" is a subgroup of the more inclusive "Aboriginal Identity" classification used for the quintennial national censuses.

Appendices

A. Board Members, Staff and Advisory Group Members

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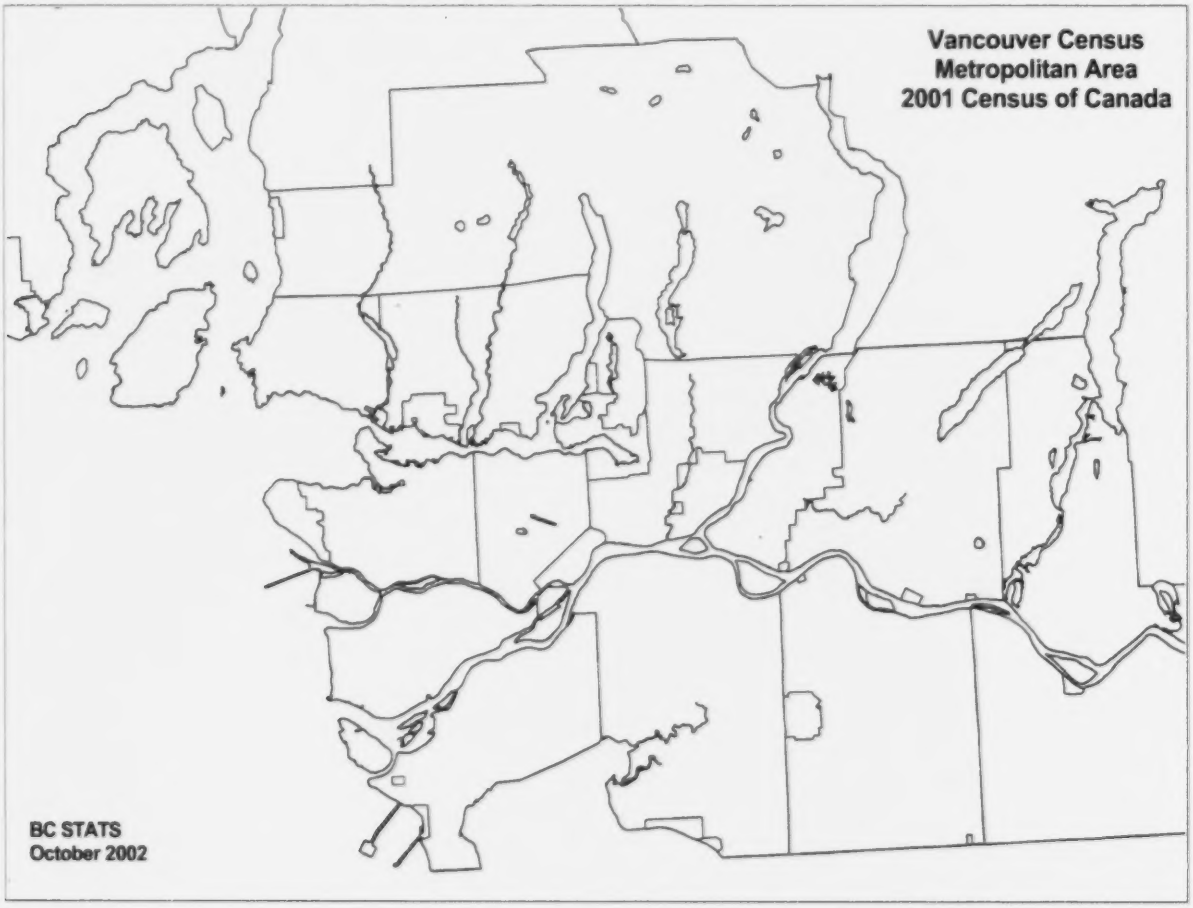
B. Methodology

British Columbia consists of a number of regional economies that differ significantly from each other in both industrial structure and social composition. This volume of the 2006 Benchmarking Report includes information comparing "large urban British Columbia" [defined as the Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), the Victoria CMA and the Abbotsford CMA] and "Regional British Columbia" (the rest of the province) on a variety of economic, social and environmental indicators. Data limitations prevent comparisons at a sub-provincial level for many of the indicators included within the core benchmarking framework. Some measures reported in this volume match those used for the province as a whole. Where appropriate, proxy indicators are used when sub-provincial data are not available for the core target and performance indicators.

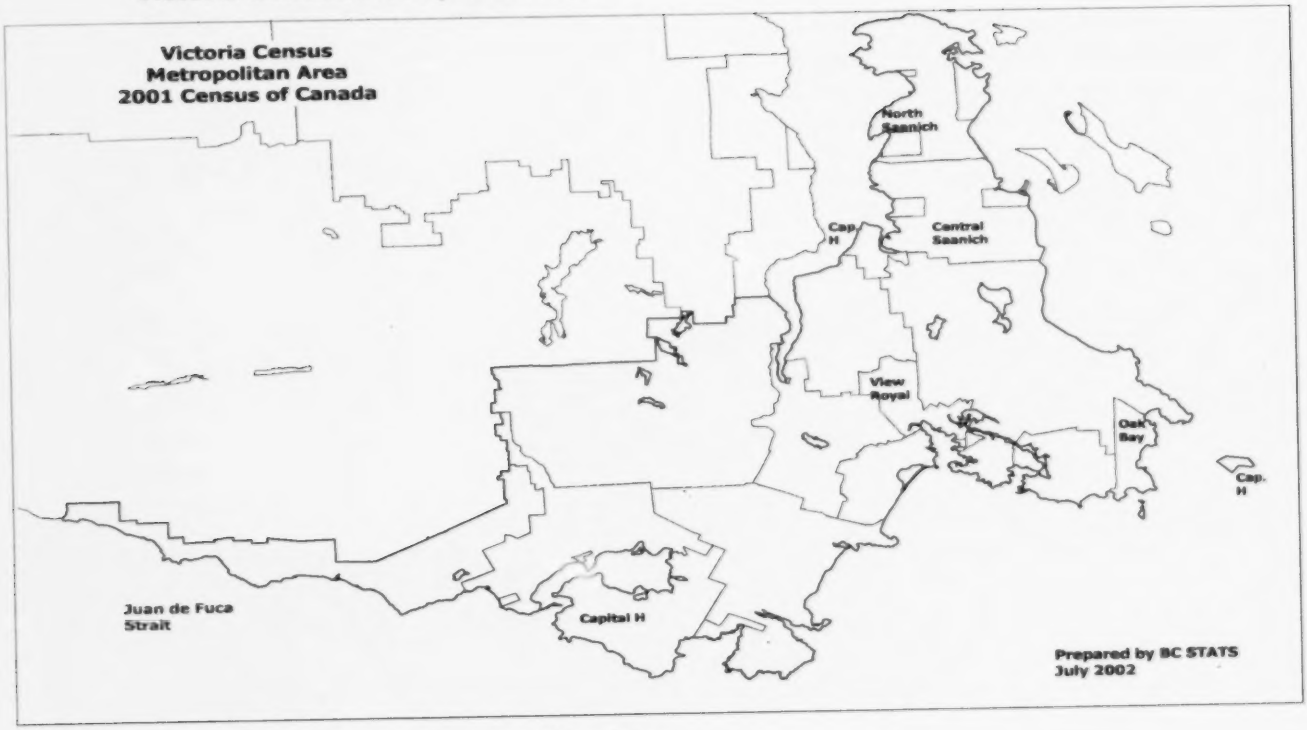
Census Metropolitan Areas

A Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is an area consisting of one or more adjacent municipalities situated around a major urban core. To form a census metropolitan area, the urban core must have a population of at least 100,000. The 2001 Census of Canada identified a CMA around Abbottsford. Data for Abbotsford have been added where available.

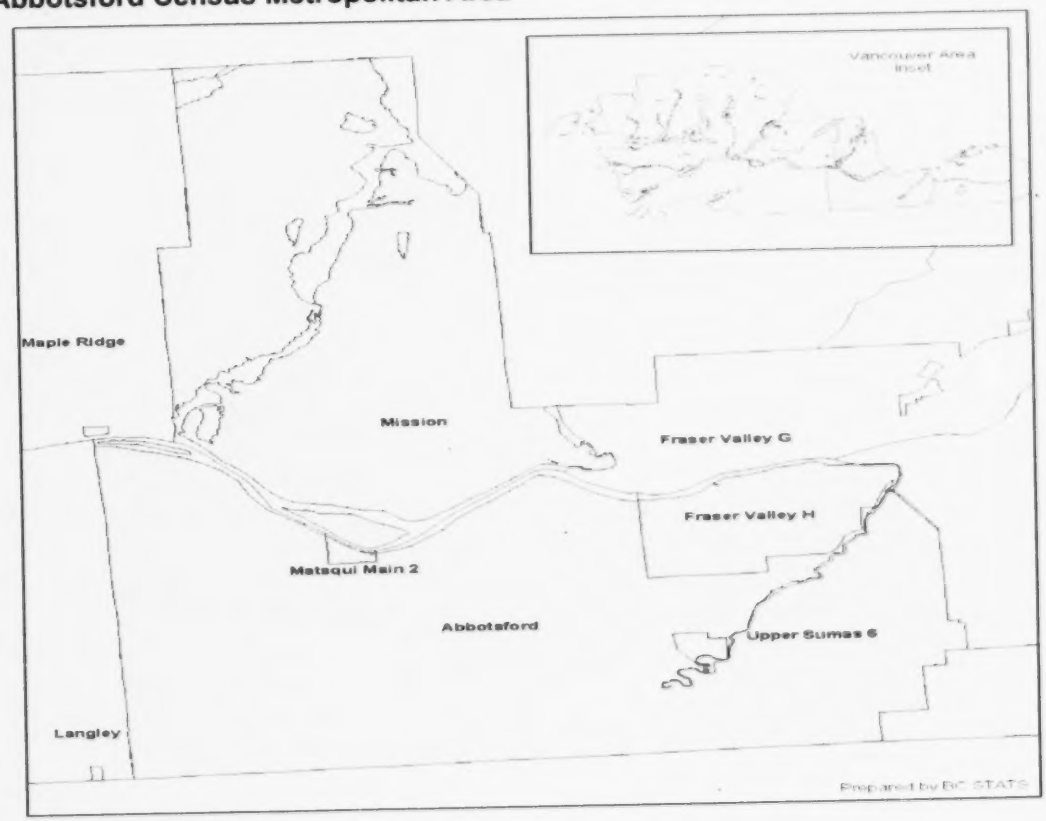
Vancouver Census Metropolitan Area



Victoria Census Metropolitan Area



Abbotsford Census Metropolitan Area

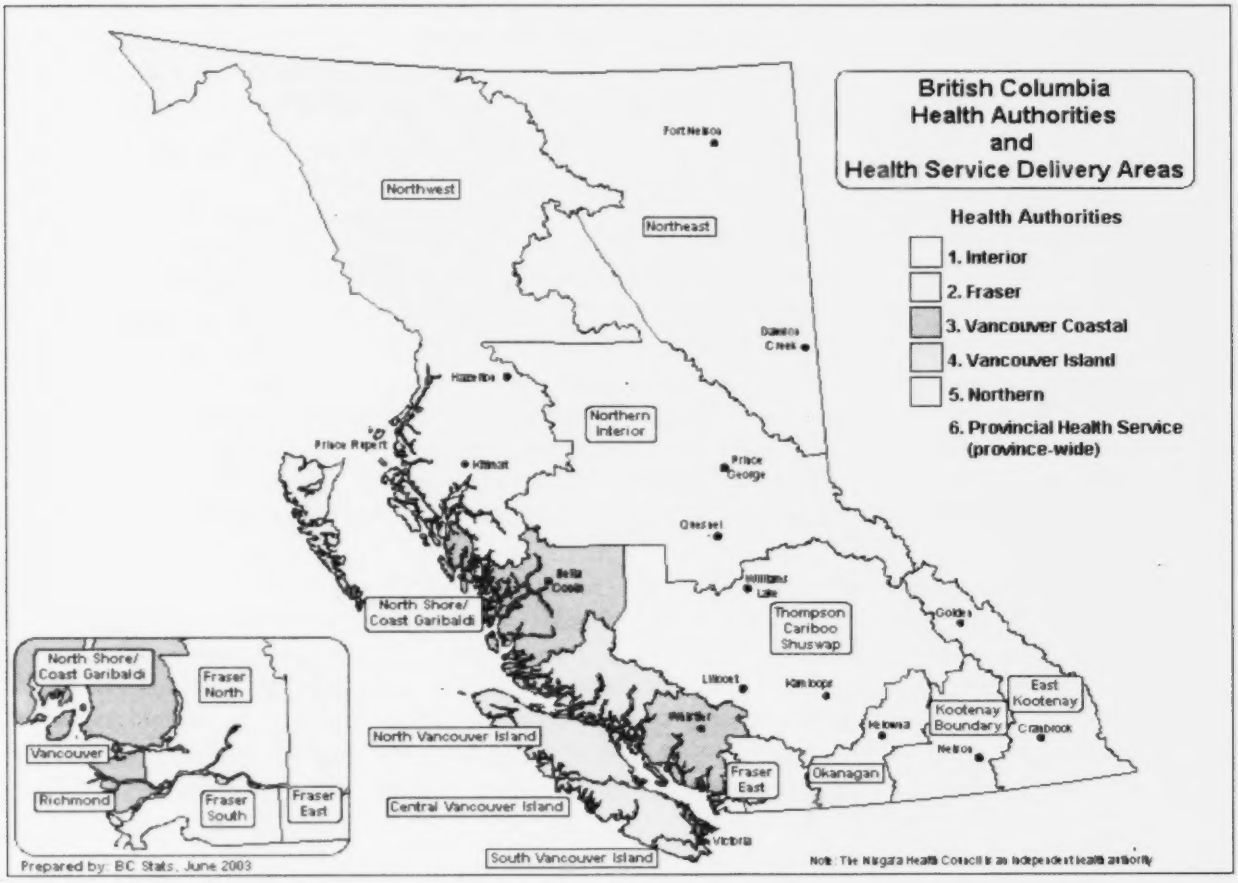


Development Regions

BC Stats' Development Regions coincide with Statistics Canada's Economic Regions. An economic region is a grouping of complete census divisions (with one exception in Ontario) created as a standard geographic unit for analysis of regional economic activity. British Columbia's Development Regions are as follows: Vancouver Island-Coast, Mainland-Southwest, Thompson-Okanagan, Kootenay, Cariboo, North Coast, Nechako and Northeast.

Health Authorities

There are six Health Authorities in BC: Interior, Fraser, Vancouver-Coastal, Vancouver Island, Northern and the province-wide Provincial Health Service.



List of Acronyms

BC Regions:

- DR – Development Region
- HA – Health Authority
- CMA– Census Metropolitan Area
- GVRD – Greater Vancouver Regional District (Vancouver)
- LFV – Lower Fraser Valley
- CRD – Capital Regional District (Victoria)
- RBC – Regional BC

Statistical:

- IA – Income Assistance
- EI – Employment Insurance
- ASMR – Age Standardized Mortality Rate

C. Glossary of Terms

Economy, Innovation and Education

Employment
Employment is the number of persons working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Employment to Population Ratio (15 to 64)
The employment to population ratio (15 to 64) is the number of employed persons aged 15 to 64 (i.e., working for pay or profit, doing unpaid work contributing to the operation of a family farm or business or with a job but absent from work in the survey week) expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 64. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Employment Income
Employment income is the aggregate of employment and self-employment income reported on tax returns as reported by Canada Revenue Agency. For tax purposes employment/self-employment income includes wages and salaries, taxable allowances, benefits, com-missions, tips and gratuities as well as net income from fishing and farming operations, net professional and unincorporated business income and net commission income.

Manufacturing Shipments
Manufacturing shipments data are collected through surveys or administrative records of all manufacturers in Canada. The value of manufacturing shipments is the net selling value of goods made by the reporting establishments, or for their own accounts, from their own materials. Excluded are discounts, returns, allowances, taxes, duties, returnable containers, and contracted transportation charges for outward shipments. Included are transfers to other establishments of same companies, value of non-returnable containers, and book value of goods produced and shipped for the first time on a rental basis. Also included are consignment shipments to other countries.

Retail Sales
Retail sales are the aggregate sales made through retail locations. Excluded are direct sales which bypass the retail store such as vending machines, door-to-door, printed materials sold directly by the publisher such as newspapers and magazines, book and record clubs, and sales by businesses whose major activity is not retailing. However, catalogue/mail-order sales of businesses classed as "general merchandise stores" are included. Sales include all receipts of retailers including food serving, repairs and rentals net of returns, adjustments and discounts. Excluded are sales taxes and non-operating revenue.

Housing Starts
Housing starts is the count of dwelling units in new structures designated for non-transient year-round occupancy. The start is recorded when the footing is installed. All new dwelling units are counted for urban areas of 10,000 or greater population. Smaller areas are sampled and an estimate for these is included in the information reported.

Non-Residential Building Permits
Non-residential building permits are the value of building permits issued by municipalities and regional districts and reported to Statistics Canada for industrial, commercial, and institutional and government new

buildings as well as alterations, renovations and additions to non-residential buildings.

Secondary School Graduation Rate
The secondary school graduation rate is the number of Grade 12 students who have graduated in the school year beginning in the indicated year including those graduating as a result of August provincial exams expressed as a percentage of the population 18 years old on July 1 of that year. Both public and private schools are included.

University Completion Rate
The university completion rate is the number of persons aged 25 to 54 with a university degree expressed as a percentage of the population between 25 and 54 years of age. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Natural and Applied Sciences Employment as a Percent of Total
Natural and applied sciences employment as a percent of total is number of persons employed in occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences expressed as a percentage of total employment. Included here are occupations in the physical sciences, engineers, architects, mathematicians, systems analysts and programmers and associated technical occupations. Excluded are persons in institutions, full-time members of the Armed Forces and persons living on Indian Reserves. Annual numbers are the average of the twelve monthly survey results.

Business Incorporations
Business incorporations are the number of firms incorporated under the Companies Act, BC Ministry of Finance. Incorporations can include holding companies as well as those actively carrying on business.

Business Bankruptcies
Business bankruptcies are the number of bankruptcies which are chiefly attributable to liabilities incurred as a result of carrying on a commercial venture or business and includes partnerships, proprietorships and limited companies. This is under federal bankruptcy legislation.

Population
Population refers to the number of Canadians and Non-permanent Residents who's usual place of residence is within the referenced geographic boundaries.

Environment, Health and Society

Air Quality
Air quality is measured by the amount of fine particulates in the air. Fine particulates include dust, dirt, liquid droplets and smoke. Most air quality monitors measure fine particulates under 10 microns (PM_{10}), but recent findings have shown that particles 2.5 microns or less ($PM_{2.5}$), pose the greatest health risk. Provinces began monitoring $PM_{2.5}$ particulates in 2001.

Direct costs to health care resulting from poor air quality may be significant. Factories, cars, power plants, construction activity, and numerous other man-made sources emit fine particulates. Monitoring for PM_{10} is relatively new in Canada and most continuous monitoring stations do not have more than 5 or 6 years of data.

Cancer Mortality
Cancer mortality is the total number of cancer deaths expressed as a percentage of the population 45 years of age and older. Since age-standardised data is not available sub-provincially, and as 95% of cancer deaths are to persons 45 years and older, this base was used to calculate the percentages and thus reduce the distortion caused by differing age structure in the sub-provincial areas.

Life Expectancy at Birth
Life expectancy at birth is the average number of remaining years of life at birth based on current mortality rates.

Low Birth Weight
The low birth weight rate is the number of live births where birth weight was less than 2,500 grams expressed as a percentage of total live births.

Personal and Property Crime Rate
The personal and property crime rate is the number of incidents, based on the most serious offence, known to the police, expressed as a rate per 100 population. Personal crime includes those offences in the Criminal Code that deal with the application or threat of application, of force to a person, including homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual-assault, robbery and abduction. Excluded are traffic incidents resulting in death or bodily harm. Property crime includes incidents involving unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the threat or use of violence e.g., theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods.

Low Income Incidence
Low income incidence is the ratio (prevalence) of families and unattached individuals in low income (after tax) to the total population of families and unattached individuals. Statistics Canada has set Low Income Cut-Offs (LICOs) to be the income level at which 54.7% or greater of income after tax is being spent on food, shelter and clothing. The same LICO is used across Canada but is stratified by family size and urban area size. This measure of low income is used in absence of any official poverty measure in Canada. Families are defined as two or more related persons sharing a dwelling unit; unattached individuals are persons either living alone or with other unrelated person(s).

Income Assistance Recipients
Income assistance recipients are the number of persons 0 to 64 years of age receiving Income Assistance benefits expressed as a percentage of the population 0 to 64 years. Excluded are Disabled Persons, Children Living in the Home of a Relative and OAS/Seniors. Data does not include Aboriginal People living on reserve.

Employment Insurance Recipients
Employment insurance recipients are the number of persons 19 to 64 years of age receiving Employment Insurance expressed as a percentage of the population 19 to 64 years.

Topic Boxes

Cardiovascular System Mortality Rate
The number of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system (cardiovascular diseases of the heart and stroke) as the underlying cause of death per 100,000 population, adjusted for the age mix of the population.

Age Standardized Mortality Rate
A summary of age adjusted death rates by age and gender, which have been standardized to a "standard" population (1991 Canada Census) for the purpose of rate comparisons between genders, different time periods or different geographic locations. The ASMR is the theoretical number of deaths that would occur per 10,000 population, if the specific population had the same age structure as the standard population.

Secondary School Completion by School District
The school completion rate is the number of students entering Grade 8 who graduate within six years.

Aboriginal Identity
The Aboriginal Identity population refers to those people who reported having: North American Indian, Métis and/or Inuit identity and/or Registered Indian status as defined by the Indian Act and/or Band membership.

Status Indian
Status Indians are one part of the broad group of First Nations people in British Columbia. There is considerable interest in the health status of First Nations people whether Status, Non-Status or Métis, but in most cases, relevant data exist only for Status Indians. In order to analyze the characteristics of any group or population, there needs to be a way to clearly define group membership and identify the events (births, deaths, hospitalizations, etc.) that occur in that group. Status Indians were the only First Nations group that could be identified.

D. Data Tables

Economy, Innovation and Education

RPI1: Employment rate (employment to population ratio, 15 to 64 year olds)										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	67.2	72.6	70.7	69.0	71.0	71.7	72.5	73.1	74.3	73.4
Vancouver CMA	70.6	69.9	68.8	69.8	71.0	69.7	70.2	71.3	71.9	71.9
Victoria CMA	69.8	71.5	69.1	72.5	73.0	70.1	69.9	71.4	72.9	75.0
Regional BC	68.6	68.8	68.1	68.3	68.1	67.1	67.5	68.0	68.7	71.3
BC	69.6	69.7	68.6	69.4	70.1	68.9	69.3	70.2	71.0	72.0
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI2: Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita, $1992										
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Abbotsford CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11,874	11,893	12,012	12,222
Vancouver CMA	13,727	13,847	13,998	14,009	14,391	15,101	15,265	15,144	15,261	15,860
Victoria CMA	12,439	12,488	12,541	12,521	12,949	13,666	14,088	14,160	14,335	14,721
Regional BC	12,437	12,357	12,461	12,248	12,521	12,989	13,412	13,296	13,388	13,821
BC	12,603	12,636	12,755	12,681	13,014	13,609	13,887	13,786	13,893	14,378
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI3: Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita, $1992										
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Abbotsford CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,981	7,180
Vancouver CMA	7,127	7,257	7,216	7,264	6,774	6,800	7,671	7,637	7,190	7,104
Victoria CMA	1,442	1,578	1,640	1,845	1,730	1,913	2,221	2,355	1,910	2,066
Regional BC	10,631	12,048	10,605	10,333	9,747	11,681	13,228	10,887	10,584	10,125
BC	7,809	8,378	7,806	7,733	7,248	8,000	9,034	8,131	7,753	7,553
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI4: Retail Sales Per Capita, $1992										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Vancouver CMA	8,754	8,596	8,322	8,161	8,309	8,415	8,631	8,596	8,505	8,379
Victoria CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Regional BC	7,748	8,303	8,004	8,147	8,490	8,926	9,213	9,175	9,815	10,373
BC	8,242	8,448	8,162	8,154	8,398	8,667	8,917	8,880	9,151	9,363
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI5: Housing Starts Per 1,000 Population										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	5.9	5.8	3.5	3.7	2.6	2.6	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.0
Vancouver CMA	8.1	8.2	6.0	4.3	4.0	5.2	6.3	7.4	9.1	8.8
Victoria CMA	3.6	4.1	3.0	4.1	2.7	3.9	4.1	6.1	7.1	6.1
Regional BC	6.8	7.4	4.3	3.8	3.2	3.1	3.9	4.8	6.4	7.9
BC	7.1	7.4	5.0	4.1	3.6	4.2	5.3	6.3	7.8	8.1
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI6: Non-Residential Building Permits Per Capita $1992										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	700	308	288	278	700
Vancouver CMA	534	544	565	494	540	490	444	364	470	623
Victoria CMA	314	330	331	624	339	441	458	591	333	680
Regional BC	451	405	400	457	416	378	244	355	335	548
BC	464	452	462	472	456	452	365	376	401	603
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI7: High school graduates as a percentage of the 18 year old population										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA*	65.4	68.1	69.4	79.6	75.0	80.3	74.4	76.6	75.2	73.0
Vancouver CMA*	71.1	70.0	75.7	77.0	77.9	76.8	79.3	81.1	81.1	75.7
Victoria CMA*	65.7	63.8	67.1	68.1	71.2	70.1	70.3	75.0	68.9	68.3
Regional BC	63.4	64.2	67.3	69.3	72.2	72.5	71.1	71.8	67.6	68.4
BC	67.3	67.1	71.4	73.3	74.9	74.7	75.0	76.7	74.4	72.0
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada Note: *Abbotsford is the sum of School Districts 34 & 75, Vancouver is the sum of School Districts 35-45, Victoria is the sum of School Districts 61-63.										

RPI8: Percent of Population (Ages 25 to 54) with University Completion										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	12.7	16.4	12.7	13.5	13.2	11.8	13.2	11.9	12.2	14.7
Vancouver CMA	24.3	22.5	25.1	25.1	25.7	25.2	27.6	29.5	29.0	31.0
Victoria CMA	20.5	24.7	23.2	27.0	27.2	25.2	23.7	24.3	23.4	26.8
Regional BC	11.7	12.3	11.6	12.1	13.3	12.2	12.2	13.6	12.9	13.8
BC	19.0	18.8	19.8	20.3	21.0	20.3	21.7	23.2	22.7	24.5
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI9: Employment in Natural and Applied Sciences & Related Occupations as a Percent of Total Employment										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	3.5	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.9	3.2	4.1	3.6	3.6	4.3
Vancouver CMA	6.0	5.9	6.5	7.9	7.2	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.6	7.2
Victoria CMA	6.0	6.4	7.0	5.8	8.2	8.3	7.5	7.8	7.3	8.0
Regional BC	5.3	5.6	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	6.3	5.5	5.5
BC	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.3	6.7	6.2	6.6
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI10: Business Incorporations less Bankruptcies Per 1,000 Population										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	3.3	3.7	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.5	5.5
Vancouver CMA	8.4	8.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.3	6.8	7.3	7.7	9.5
Victoria CMA	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.5	5.2	6.6
Regional BC	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.1	4.1
BC	5.8	5.6	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.5	4.8	5.2	5.7	7.1
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

Environment, Health and Society

RPI11: Air Quality - Annual Mean PM_{10} Concentrations (µg/m3)						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Campbell River	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.7	11.6	12.4
Kamloops	17.9	16.9	13.1	15.0	14.1	14.2
Kelowna	17.4	16.2	15.5	16.7	13.0	14.2
Langley	13.0	12.4	11.2	11.8	12.3	12.5
Prince George	24.2	20.1	20.2	22.7	17.9	18.0
Vancouver	15.3	14.0	13.7	14.3	13.3	13.8

Air Quality - Annual Mean $PM_{2.5}$ Concentrations (µg/m3)										
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.4	5.3	5.0	5.2
Chilliwack				5.2	4.5	5.4	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.6
Kamloops				n/a	n/a	5.6	5.3	6.7	7.9	7.9	5.7
Kelowna				6.4	4.9	5.6	5.6	6.0	8.5	5.8	4.6
Langley				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.4	5.6	n/a	5.6
Nanaimo				5.2	4.2	4.9	4.4	5.2	4.2	4.1	4.4
Pitt Meadows				n/a	4.9	6.0	5.2	5.2	5.6	5.3	5.5
Powell River				n/a	2.9	3.7	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.0
Prince George				9.7	8.0	9.6	9.5	9.2	10.8	10.6	7.9
Vancouver				n/a	n/a	6.3	5.4	5.8	5.9	5.5	6.0
Victoria				n/a	n/a	6.6	5.9	7.1	5.9	5.6	5.4
Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection; Environment Canada											

RPI12: Cancer Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Population 45 Years and Older										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	5.6	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.7
Vancouver CMA	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3
Victoria CMA	6.4	6.8	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.8	5.4
Regional BC	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.3
BC	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI13: Life Expectancy at Birth (Years - Both Sexes, Two Year Averages)										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	79.3	78.9	78.9	79.2	79.9	80.0	80.1	80.2	80.6	80.6
Vancouver CMA	79.1	79.4	79.7	80.1	80.6	81.0	81.2	81.5	81.7	81.8
Victoria CMA	79.6	79.6	79.6	80.1	80.7	80.6	80.5	81.1	81.3	81.2
Regional BC	78.2	78.4	78.6	78.9	79.3	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.8
BC	78.2	78.4	78.6	78.9	79.3	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.8
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI14: Low Weight (Less than 2,500 Grams) Births as a Percent of Live Births										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	4.8	4.7	4.9	3.8	5.4	4.6	5.0	4.9	6.4	5.1
Vancouver CMA	5.4	5.7	5.2	5.1	5.5	5.0	5.4	5.6	5.8	6.1
Victoria CMA	5.1	4.4	4.7	5.3	4.6	4.8	5.8	5.9	5.4	5.5
Regional BC	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.3	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.8	5.2	5.0
BC	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.7	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.6
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI15: Personal and Property Crime Rate (Incidents Per 100 population)										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	8.6	8.2	7.5	6.6	6.8	8.1	8.8	9.0	8.9	8.4
Vancouver CMA	11.7	10.2	9.5	9.0	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.6	8.3	7.6
Victoria CMA	8.2	7.6	7.3	7.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	6.5
Regional BC	8.6	8.3	7.8	7.2	7.0	6.9	7.2	7.9	7.7	7.4
BC	10.1	9.2	8.6	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.2	7.9	7.4
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI16: Percentage of Families & Unattached Individuals Below the After-Tax Low Income Cut-Offs										
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Vancouver CMA	22.4	26.4	26.8	24.8	25.7	23.1	22.5	23.0	20.0	20.5
Victoria CMA	22.2	18.9	19.9	19.4	18.6	21.0	16.3	13.4	20.0	18.4
Regional BC	12.3	16.1	17.7	15.7	15.7	15.8	15.9	17.8	17.7	15.2
BC	18.3	21.5	22.2	20.2	20.8	19.7	19.1	20.0	19.0	18.0
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada										

RPI17 - SI: Percent of Population 19-64 Years Receiving Employment Insurance Benefits										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	4.9	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.8
Vancouver CMA	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.6	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5
Victoria CMA	3.4	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3
Regional BC	5.0	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.1	3.7
BC	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.0
Sources: BC Stats; Statistics Canada.										

RPI18 - SI: Percent of Population 0 - 64 years Receiving Income Assistance										
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Abbotsford CMA	9.5	8.0	7.2	6.5	5.9	5.2	3.9	2.6	1.9	1.6
Vancouver CMA	8.1	6.8	6.0	5.2	4.7	4.3	3.4	2.3	1.7	1.2
Victoria CMA	8.8	7.3	6.4	5.8	5.4	4.9	3.6	2.3	1.7	1.3
RBC	10.7	9.1	8.4	7.9	7.6	7.1	5.4	3.6	2.6	2.1
BC	9.2	7.8	6.9	6.3	5.9	5.4	4.2	2.8	2.0	1.6
Sources: BC Stats; BC Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance; Statistics Canada.										

Supplemental Information

Development Region

RPI1 - SI: Employment Rate by Development Region											
Development Region	Abbr.	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	56.3	57.9	56.3	58.6	57.8	53.7	54.9	54.6	56.5	58.2
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	61.2	61.1	60.3	60.7	61.5	60.9	61.9	62.6	62.7	63.0
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	55.8	56.3	56.0	55.1	55.7	55.2	54.1	56.1	57.9	60.4
Kootenay	KN	54.9	53.9	57.4	56.7	57.7	57.4	54.5	55.3	55.0	56.6
Cariboo	CB	66.8	63.4	62.7	61.9	60.6	61.2	60.6	61.1	63.4	63.2
North Coast & Nechako	NCN	68.3	67.8	62.4	62.2	63.7	63.5	62.4	63.4	60.9	66.5
Northeast	NE	69.2	70.0	66.5	64.9	67.8	69.0	69.7	72.6	68.2	69.0
British Columbia	BC	60.0	60.0	59.2	59.7	60.2	59.0	59.6	60.3	60.9	61.8
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; Statistics Canada.											

RPI2 - SI: Taxfilers' Employment Income Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region											
Development Region	Abbr.	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	11,675	11,626	11,542	11,301	11,762	12,317	12,683	12,605	12,806	13,200
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	13,352	13,423	13,562	13,579	13,961	14,636	14,833	14,721	14,841	15,387
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	10,609	10,532	10,683	10,706	10,796	11,179	11,582	11,494	11,780	12,333
Kootenay	KN	11,161	11,125	11,981	11,252	11,296	11,861	12,031	11,815	11,435	11,904
Cariboo	CB	13,533	13,495	13,441	13,142	13,262	13,401	13,851	13,988	13,615	13,880
North Coast	NC	12,706	12,376	11,807	11,580	12,250	13,028	12,469	12,012	11,588	11,582
Nechako	NK	12,398	12,205	12,313	11,955	12,559	12,768	13,047	13,217	12,845	12,692
Northeast	NE	14,310	13,995	14,643	14,683	13,947	14,691	16,147	15,836	16,340	16,500
British Columbia	BC	12,627	12,636	12,755	12,681	13,014	13,609	13,887	13,786	13,893	14,378
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

RPI3 - SI: Manufacturing Shipments Per Capita ($1992) by Development Region											
Development Region	Abbr.	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Vancouver Island and Coast	VI&C	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,633	5,152	5,807	5,246	4,706	4,540
Lower Mainland - Southwest	SW	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,464	6,567	7,474	7,289	6,968	6,902
Thompson - Okanagan	TO	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,859	9,068	9,380	7,149	7,029	6,392
Kootenay	KN	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8,141	9,123	15,640	12,277	11,656	11,670
Cariboo	CB	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19,752	20,657	21,729	20,073	20,096	19,718
North Coast	NC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	15,901	17,581	n/a	16,388	14,530	13,873
Nechako	NK	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21,017	24,139	22,184	19,771	22,058	18,557
Northeast	NE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6,501	8,140	8,277	5,766	5,766	6,244
British Columbia	BC	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7,248	8,000	9,034	8,131	7,753	7,553
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

Health Authority

RPI13 - SI: Age Standardized Cancer Mortality by Health Authority											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Interior	IN	17.1	16.5	16.7	17.1	15.5	16.1	16.8	16.7	17.3	15.9
Fraser	FR	17.8	17.2	16.8	16.5	15.8	16.1	15.5	15.7	15.7	15.3
Vancouver Coastal	VC	15.8	15.8	15.9	15.7	14.7	14.4	13.9	13.4	13.7	13.4
Vancouver Island	VI	17.3	18.5	17.0	16.7	17.1	16.8	17.3	16.5	16.6	16.5
Northern	NO	19.5	18.5	18.6	18.9	17.7	18.8	18.3	18.3	17.7	16.8
British Columbia	BC	17.2	17.0	16.7	16.6	15.9	15.9	15.8	15.6	15.8	15.2
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

RPI13 - SI: Age Standardized Cardiovascular Disease Mortality by Health Authority											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Interior	IN	22.5	22.2	21.7	20.8	19.4	19.0	18.7	18.1	17.6	16.4
Fraser	FR	24.5	22.7	21.9	20.9	19.7	19.3	18.2	18.7	17.9	17.4
Vancouver Coastal	VC	21.7	20.1	20.2	19.2	17.5	16.9	16.5	15.5	14.9	13.6
Vancouver Island	VI	23.1	21.3	20.7	20.9	18.4	19.0	17.6	16.9	16.6	15.5
Northern	NO	26.4	23.3	26.7	24.0	22.9	21.2	20.4	19.6	18.6	16.6
British Columbia	BC	23.2	21.7	21.4	20.6	19.0	18.7	17.9	17.4	16.8	15.8
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

RPI15 - SI: Low Weight Births (percent) by Health Authority											
Health Authority	Abbr.	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Interior	IN	5.3	4.6	5.1	4.5	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.2
Fraser	FR	5.3	5.7	5.3	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.9	6.0
Vancouver Coastal	VC	5.2	5.4	5.2	4.7	5.5	4.6	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.7
Vancouver Island	VI	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.9	4.7	4.8	5.4	5.7	5.3	5.4
Northern	NO	4.6	5.0	4.6	4.3	4.3	4.5	5.1	4.0	5.0	4.8
British Columbia	BC	5.1	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.1	5.0	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.6
Sources: BC Progress Board; BC Stats; BC Vital Statistics Agency; Statistics Canada.											

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